

## The “5 Truths” of the Gospel

**Truth #1: Already Forgiven** – all of your sins were forgiven on the Cross of Christ, except the sin of unbelief. Mark 3:28; Romans 5:10a; John 16:8-9

**Truth #2: Made Clean** – when you trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God takes out your old sinful spirit (heart) and gives you a brand, new clean heart. Romans 6:6; Romans 6:17-18; John 3:3,7

**Truth #3: Made Righteous** – as a Christian, you are now righteous in your spirit because Jesus, in the form of the Holy Spirit, lives in you. 2 Peter 1:4

**Truth #4: In Union** – you are “in Christ” because Jesus joins as one with you in your spirit. John 14:20; 1 Corinthians 6:17; Colossians 1:27

**Truth #5: By Faith** – you are righteous on the inside but your body is still dead to sin. Follow by faith the inner life of Christ so that you can live a righteous life. Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:3b

## The “5 Keys” to Understanding the New Testament

**Key #1: Teaching of the Holy Spirit** - only the Holy Spirit can make the Bible come alive since your human mind is incapable of understanding God’s spiritual truths. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

**Key #2: Proper Context** - the New Testament must be understood in its proper Jewish context. Otherwise, the message gets misinterpreted and is dramatically changed. Romans 9:4; John 4:22b

**Key #3: Spiritual Beings** - all people have an inner spirit and an outer mortal body. Christians have a “born again” spirit that is righteous, but they still live in their not-yet-redeemed mortal bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:1-6; Ephesians 4:24

**Key #4: Jesus Emptied Himself** - Jesus lived by the power of the Holy Spirit that He received at His baptism. Jesus lived by faith and not by His own power. Therefore, He is your model for a life of faith. John 14:10b; Matthew 12:28; Matthew 12:18

**Key #5: Hebrew Law** - God gave the Law only to the Jews; the Gentiles have never been under the Law. Romans 2:14; Hebrews 7:18, 28; Hebrews 8:13

Romans 8:10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? [17] ... for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Also see 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21; Ephesians 4:24; 1 Peter 1:23; 2 Peter 1:4; and Romans 5:17.

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**True Tracts**

# Confession of Sins: Is This What the Bible Teaches?

As God listens to the prayers of Christians, He probably hears the confession of sins more than anything else. But, the Bible does not teach the confession of sins and never has taught the confession of sins. The Cross defeated sin and death; praying for forgiveness is praying for something you already have.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## Confessing Sins

Confessing sins, usually on a daily basis, is one of the most ingrained practices in the Christian faith. Christians who do not confess their sins often feel guilty or dirty, and they are convinced that they have created a distance between themselves and God. It is hard to find a Christian teacher today who does not preach confession based on 1 John 1:9 ...

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

But, is this what the Bible really teaches? If you point out that the Apostle Paul never once talks about confessing sins, the first thing you hear is, "How many times does God have to say something before it is true?" That usually stops the conversation. But, God proclaims over 50 times in the New Testament that Christians are literally righteous in their born again spirits. Not many people believe that. (See back panel.) The Apostle Paul really only wrote about two things: [1] revealed truth and [2] living out that truth. It is an unfathomable oversight that Paul would neglect teaching the confession of sins if it was really something that God requires Christians to do.

If you ask most Christians to explain the second half of 1 John 1:9, most do not have an answer; nor are most able to explain the verse in the context of the first chapter or even the entire letter.

1 John 1:9b ... and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confessing sins keeps Christians focused on sin instead of righteousness, and it inadvertently denies the Cross of Jesus Christ.

## Proclamation of the Gospel

The first chapter of 1 John is, in fact, a proclamation of the Gospel to the Jews of John's day. Scholars have traditionally rejected this view only because John addresses his readers as "my little children" (1 John 2:1). This is a classic example of how human reasoning has led to the misinterpretation of Scripture. The letter begins by John twice making a "proclamation" (3 times in the NIV); John then gives the message he is proclaiming...

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Then, verses 6, 8 and 10 begin with, "If we say ..."; these are excuses that people use for saying that they are walking in the "light" when, in reality, they are walking in the "darkness." The Apostle John refutes these claims in verse 7, 9 and 2:1-2.

The true understanding of 1 John 1:9 rests on three keys words: "fellowship," "darkness" and "sins."

The word "fellowship" is used ten other times in the New Testament and always implies a permanent relationship, not something fragile that you can gain or lose.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

"Darkness" is always used to mean being lost and outside the family of God.

John 1:5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

## "Amartiaiv"

The word "sins" in verse 9 is the same Greek root word for "sin" that is used in verse 8 ...

1 John 1:8-9 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. [9] If we confess our sins, ...

The word "sins" in verse 9 (amartiaiv in the Greek) is the exact same word used in Romans 6:6 ...

Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

Here the Apostle Paul is clearly speaking of a person's inner sinfulness rather than individual sins. That is the understanding of 1 John 1:9; if we confess our sinfulness, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This is the cry of a sinner admitting his need for a Savior.

The confession of sins has ruined the lives of millions of people because it causes them to focus, and in many cases obsess, on sins and sinning. It destroys the victory of the Cross which says that all of your sins have already been forgiven and forgotten. Being born again through faith in Jesus Christ allowed God to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. You are righteous in your spirit. Your mortal body has not yet been redeemed but your spirit is holy; you cannot sin in your spirit because Jesus in you cannot sin.

1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

That is why you live by faith because only through Christ in you can you live a righteous life.