

Let us first examine the controversial Scripture, 1 John 1:8-9:

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we **CONFESS** our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

**A. 1st Card** - No one can claim to be without sin (1 John 1:8).

**B. 2nd Card** - The very next verse (1 John 1:9) says that He will purify us from ALL unrighteousness. If ALL unrighteousness is gone, how many is left? Zero.

If I have 5 grains of sand on my hand and I blow them ALL off, how many are left? Zero. If I wash the dishes and I take ALL the grease out, how much grease is left? Zero.

**C. 3rd Card** - We are faced with a **contradiction**: Card #1 and Card #2 seem to convey opposite truths. On one hand, Card #1 says that you can not "claim to be without sin" but on the other, Card #2 says that you can have "all unrighteousness" cleansed, therefore leaving you with no sin remaining. Can you "not claim to be without sin" and yet have no sin left?

Something happened in between verses 8 and 9. Look carefully above. It is called

"confession" (caps, underlined). You cannot say that you have no sin before confessing them to Christ (repentance). I have witnessed to people who thought that they were good people and that they never sinned their whole lives. Therefore, they thought they did not need Jesus.

**D. 4th Card** - The very next verse further clarifies it for us: "**If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.**" (1 John 1:10). We make Him a liar if we say that we have never sinned, because "all have sinned." That's why we need to be saved.

Let's go back a couple of verses to get the context (1 John 1:6-7):

"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

**E. 5th Card** - We can't walk in darkness (sin) and have fellowship with God (v. 6). Furthermore, if we say that we have fellowship with Him - If we call ourselves Christians - and live in sin, we lie and do not the truth. **Right here you can see that "sinning Christianity" is a false doctrine.**

**F. 6th Card** - If we walk in the light (truth), the blood of Jesus cleanses from ALL sin (v. 7). Again, ALL means ALL. If ALL sin is cleansed, how much is left? Zero.

The next verse further shows us that we are NOT to expect sinning:

"My little children, these things write I unto you, **that ye sin not**. And **IF** any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:" (1 John 2:1).

What is the Apostle John's purpose to writing these things? (answer above)

- A. That you may sin
- B. That you may NOT sin

If you correctly answered "b," which interpretation of 1 John 1:8 is in more harmony with John's goal for writing this letter?

Also note that 1 John 2:1 says "if," not "when" (underlined and capitalized above). Let me ask you a couple of questions:

1. "**IF** I have a car wreck today, I hope not to get hurt." Is this car wreck:

- a. inevitable
- b. a possibility

2. "**WHEN** I drop a ball, it will fall to the ground." Is the law of gravity:

- a. inevitable
- b. a possibility

Likewise, 1 John 2:1 shows us clearly that sinning is a possibility in a Christian's life ("**IF** any man sin..."), but not an inevitable event. 1 John 1:8 shows us that sinning is inevitable in a sinner's life (before confession and salvation).

I am not claiming to be "without sin." I used to be a drunkard, a fornicator, etc., before I got saved. But after I confessed my sins to Jesus and was born-again, I was cleansed of all sin. Now, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God, I am "walking in the light, as He is in the light," and the blood of Jesus Christ "cleanses me from ALL sin." I am not expecting to sin, but IF I sin, I have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, and I am no longer "walking in darkness."

To say that 1 John 1:8 means what most modern-day professing "Christians" say that it means is bogus. If you look at the whole context, it CAN NOT mean that we are always going to sin. The verse in itself is sandwiched between verses that teach the exact opposite!!!

If you read on into this book of 1 John, you will find out some radical statements against "sinning Christianity" such as:

• 1 John 2:3-6: "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. **He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the**