

# WHAT PLACE DOES SIN HAVE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD OF GOD?



**Proposition: God & Sin Are Incompatible**  
**Therefore: The child of God & Sin Are Incompatible**  
*First John 1-3*

# WHAT PLACE DOES SIN HAVE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD OF GOD?

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- ◆ One of the special objects for which First John was written was to counteract the errors of the dangerous, deadly heresy of the day, later known as Gnosticism.
- ◆ There were three sects whose heretical teachings began to influence the churches in the latter part of the 1<sup>st</sup> century: The Ebionites, followers of Ebion; The Docetics; and Cerinthians.



# WHAT PLACE DOES SIN HAVE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD OF GOD? <sup>3</sup>

## **Denied both the deity and humanity of Christ –**

- ◆ The Ebonites declared that Jesus was a mere man, denying his deity.
- ◆ One branch of the Cerinthian Gnostic maintained his body was, for a time, occupied by an aeon, eon, ("*an emanation or phase of the supreme deity*"), called Christ.
- ◆ The Docetic Gnostic argued that he only appeared to possess a body, but only a shadowy phantom.



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## **Believed That All Matter Was Evil – Including All Flesh**

- ◆ Claimed to have reached such an advanced stage of spiritual experience and knowledge that they were 'beyond good and evil'.
- ◆ They contended that once regenerated, they were pure in spirit, and it mattered not what the body did, since it was inherently evil anyway because it was material.





# WHAT PLACE DOES SIN HAVE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD OF GOD? <sup>5</sup>

## **1 John 3:1-3 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

**How pure is Jesus? –  
1 John 2:6; Heb 7:26; 1 Pet 2:22**

# WHAT PLACE DOES SIN HAVE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD OF GOD?

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## What Does It Mean To Sin?

**1 John 3:4  
(NKJV)**

**4 Whoever  
commits sin  
also commits  
lawlessness,  
and sin is  
lawlessness.**

- ✦ Transgression of God's Law –  
1 John 3:4
- ✦ All Unrighteousness –  
1 John 5:17
- ✦ Omitting Known Duty –  
James 4:17
- ✦ Missing the mark – Rom 3:23
- ✦ If Not Of Faith – Rom 14:23

# WHAT PLACE DOES SIN HAVE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD OF GOD? <sup>7</sup>

1 John 3:4-7 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup> Whoever abides in Him does not sin.

Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is

The heretics were claiming that they **KNEW** God while living a sinful life – John is saying that the very concept is evidence they **REALLY HAVE NEVER KNOWN HIM!**



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Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

How Righteous is Jesus? –  
1 John 2:1; Heb 1:8; 1 Pet 1:15,16  
Therefore – Rom. 6:16-18; 1 Pet 2:24



# WHAT PLACE DOES SIN HAVE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD OF GOD? <sup>9</sup>

## What Does It Mean If We Sin?

**1 John 3:8 (NKJV)**  
**<sup>8</sup>He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.**

- ✦ Those who sin are “of the devil” – 1 John 3:8; John 8:44
- ✦ All sin is of Satan – 1 John 3:8
- ✦ Satan has sinned from the beginning – John 8:44; Gen 3:1-15
- ✦ Jesus was manifested to destroy Satan’s work – 1 John 3:5; Heb 2:14

# WHAT PLACE DOES SIN HAVE IN<sup>10</sup> THE LIFE OF A CHILD OF GOD?

## What Does It Mean To Be Born of God?

**1 John 3:9 (NKJV)**

**⁹Whoever has  
been born of God  
does not sin, for  
His seed remains  
in him; and he  
cannot sin,  
because he has  
been born of God.**

- ✦ NOT referring merely to a one time regenerative act or experience in the past –
- ✦ But describing the abiding, faithful child of God – (1 Jn 1:5-2:11; Gal 5:16,22-24)
- ✦ We respect God as our “Father” ONLY when we allow Him to rule our hearts, thoughts & life – cf (BDAG)



# WHAT PLACE DOES SIN HAVE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD OF GOD? <sup>11</sup>

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- ✦ **That one believes that Jesus is the Christ – 1 John 5:1; John 3:5; 1 Pet 1:22,23**
- ✦ **That one practices righteousness – 1 John 2:29; 3:7; Rom 6**
- ✦ **That one loves his brother – 1 John 4:7; 5:1,2**
- ✦ **That one keeps himself – Gen 39:9; Dan 1:8**

# GOD & SIN ARE INCOMPATIBLE

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## *Sin Is Not In God or of God*

### The Principle

**1 John 3:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

### The Problem

**1 John 1:5-6 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

<sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.



# GOD & SIN ARE INCOMPATIBLE<sup>13</sup>

## *Sin Is Not In God or of God*

The Principle – Fellowship  
= walking in truth

**1 John 3:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

The problem - (Claims fellowship while walking in darkness), *verse 6*

**1 John 1:7-8 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

# GOD & SIN ARE INCOMPATIBLE<sup>14</sup>

## *Sin Is Not In God or of God*

Principle - i.e. "if" we agree with God about His incompatibility with sin.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

The problem - (Claims fellowship while walking in darkness), *verse 6*

### **1 John 1:9-10 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

<sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.



# GOD & SIN ARE INCOMPATIBLE<sup>15</sup>

## *Sin Is Not In God or of God*

**1 John 3:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

**1 John 1:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

**1 John 1:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**1 John 1:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

# GOD & SIN ARE INCOMPATIBLE

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*One Cannot Follow God's Word And Sin While Doing So!*

**1 John 3:9 (NKJV)**

9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

- ✦ A seed determines the nature of what is produced
- ✦ If the word of God “remains” in us, our daily lives (attitudes, actions, words) will manifest the nature and likeness of God (Hab. 1:13; Matt. 4:1-11).



# GOD & SIN ARE INCOMPATIBLE <sup>17</sup>

*One Cannot Follow God's Word And Sin While Doing So!*

Cannot Sin

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**Psalms 119:10-11 (NKJV)**

10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! 11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

**2 Samuel 12:7-9 (NKJV)**

7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! . . . 9 Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? . . .

Does Sin

# GOD & SIN ARE INCOMPATIBLE

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*One Cannot Follow God's Word And Sin While Doing So!*

**1 John 3:9 (NKJV)**

9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

**Genesis 39:9 (NKJV)**

9 *There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"*



# GOD & SIN ARE INCOMPATIBLE<sup>19</sup>

*One Cannot Follow God's Word And Sin While Doing So!*

**1 John 3:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

**Matthew 6:24 (NKJV)**

<sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

# GOD & SIN ARE INCOMPATIBLE <sup>20</sup>

*One Cannot Follow God's Word And Sin While Doing So!*

**1 John 3:9 (NKJV)**

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**Romans 6:1-2 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

<sup>2</sup> Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?



# GOD & SIN ARE INCOMPATIBLE

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*One Cannot Follow God's Word And Sin While Doing So!*

**1 John 3:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

**Galatians 5:16-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.  
<sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

# GOD & SIN ARE INCOMPATIBLE <sup>22</sup>

## *Truth Taught In First John*

### ◆ If we choose to sin:

- ❖ Our intimate relationship with Jesus is broken (3:6)
- ❖ Our allegiance reverts back to the devil (3:8)
- ❖ We overtly choose to rebel against what is right (3:10)

### ◆ We cannot Serve God & Satan At The Same Time –

- ❖ Walking both in light & darkness, abiding in Christ & practicing sin are each and all impossible (1:5-7; 3:5-9; Mt. 6:24; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; Rom. 6:16-18).



# GOD & SIN ARE INCOMPATIBLE<sup>23</sup>

## *Truth Taught In First John*

- ❖ One IS NOT WALKING WITH God IF he walks in darkness – 1 John 1:5-2:2
- ❖ One DOES NOT KNOW God IF he DOES NOT keep His commandments – 1 John 2:3-6
- ❖ One IS NOT IN God if he hates his brother – 1 John 2:7-11
- ❖ One IS NOT OF God IF he practices unrighteousness – 1 John 3:1-9





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## **Galatians 5:16-26 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.



## **Galatians 5:16-26 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

## Galatians 5:16-26 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.



## Galatians 5:16-26 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:16-26 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup>

Let us not become  
conceited, provoking one  
another, envying one  
another.