

## What is the context of 1 John 1:9? (Read to the end)

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If we first had to **confess ALL ours sins** before we could be right with God, no one would be right with God.

**Sin includes** every wrong action, word, thought, omission, disobedience, fear, prejudice, arrogance, malice, anger, strife, jealousy, bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness, hypocrisy, deception, lust, immorality, greed, gluttony (overeating, compulsive eating), breaking the law of the land (speeding), not loving your wife perfectly like Christ loves the church, disrespecting your husband, insubordination, etc. We all have many unconfessed sins everyday. When last did you confess all of these? Aren't you in fear for all the above sins you haven't confessed? On the **contrary**, sincere Christians worldwide continue to pursue & worship God, experiencing His presence – by grace God still loves and accepts His imperfect children (testifying by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit).

With God there are no big sins or little sins – sin is sin and we all fail every day. Christians are way too quick to want to **damn others to hell** for perceived 'big serious' sins, while their religious bias conveniently overlooks their own perceived 'little inconsequential' sins. Which is worse – a glass of wine or scandalling about other people? The first is not a biblical sin (rather a sin of particular church traditions), while the second certainly is a biblical sin – but religion will categorize them the other way around. I thank God for His mercy being extended to others, because I certainly need that very same mercy extended to me – *Mat 5:7*. Those who harshly judge others are setting themselves up to be harshly judged – *Mat 7:1-2; James 2:13*. All who believe in Jesus and receive His unconditional love will not be judged – *Isa 54:9-10; John 3:16-18*.

**1 John 1:9** is the only New Covenant scripture that apparently tells us to confess our sins to get back into right-standing with God, but are we required to confess ALL our sins or who draws the line to which sins we do or do not need to confess – *James 2:10...whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one {point} is guilty of all*. In fact its our **new covenant through the blood of Jesus that makes & keeps us righteous** – not our ability to confess all our sins (an impossibility that would damn us all to hell). Thank God by covenant its all on **Jesus performance** and not my imperfect performance – *Rom 4:4-8; 11:6; 1 Cor 1:30-31; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Eph 1:7-8a; Col 1:12-14,22; Heb 6:13-20 (He swore by Himself & it is impossible for God to lie – our part of the covenant is to believe & receive); 9:12-15; 10:4-14; 1 John 2:1-2; 4:10; Rev 5:9*.

**Sin is serious** – it opens the door to devil to destroy you (*John 10:10*), crushing your confidence before God through a guilty conscience – *1John 3:21*. So please do confess every sin you're convicted of to shut the door to the devil & maintain a good conscience before God, but not to restore lost righteous – the blood of Jesus has already paid in full for every sin and we have a **covenant of righteousness** in our fully redeemed born again spirit man – *Rom 3:28; 5:1-2,6-21; 8:1-2,31-39; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 3:18; Eph 4:24; Heb 12:23* (and all the scriptures in the above paragraph).

**1John 2** starts with "My little children" (he's addressing his spiritual children in the Lord, born again believers). So who is **1John 1** written to? Unbelievers (specifically **agnostics who do not believe in the existence or nature of God**) – it's a **come-to-Jesus chapter** as the context shows over and over...

**1 John 1:1-10** *What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life* (John's proclaiming the origin, revelation and purpose of Jesus)--

**2** *and the life was manifested* (revealed), *and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the ETERNAL LIFE* (preaching a message of salvation to receive God's free gift of Eternal Life), *which was with the Father and was manifested* (revealed) *to us--*

**3** *what we have seen and heard* (experienced by us) *we proclaim to you also* (so you too may experience Him), *so that you too may have fellowship with us* (i.e. get born again to have fellowship with us believers); *and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ* (you're not saved and in right relationship with the Father by 'good works' or Christian performance, only by faith in the finished work of Jesus who is the only

way, the absolute truth and the eternal life – *John 14:6; Mat 7:13-14*).

4 *These things we write, so that **our joy may be made complete*** (our heartfelt joy comes from your believing in and receiving Jesus – *Luke 15:7*).

5 *This is **the message we have heard from Him and announce to you*** (proclaiming a tailored Gospel to **agnostics that there is light & darkness**), *that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

6 *If we **say that we have fellowship with Him** and {yet} walk in the darkness* (many good God fearing people say they're Christians but have never been born again – they're deceived by the darkness of their 'good works' and Christian performance – *Heb 6:1*), *we lie and do not practice the truth;*

7 *but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light* (come to the light of Jesus), *we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all* (of our) *sin* (put your faith in the blood of His finished work and not your 'good works' or Christian performance – *Heb 10:10-18*).

8 *If we **say that we have no sin*** (the deception of self-righteous people, trusting in their 'good works' and Christian performance or **agnostics who don't acknowledge the existence of God or the sinful nature of man**), *we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.*

9 *If we confess* (Greek: Homologeō – to agree with God, to say so) *our sins* ([Greek: Harmatia – sin, to miss the mark] – all have sinned and fall short of God's standard of perfection – *Rom 3:23; Mat 5:48*), *He is faithful and righteous* (faithful to honor His Word and righteous to forgive because Jesus has suffered in our place, paying our debt in full) *to forgive us* (everyone has to personally do it) *our sins* (plural - all of them at one time) *and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (receiving God's free gift of Eternal Life and perfect righteous in your born again spirit man – *1John 1:2-3; 5:11-13; Col 1:22; Eph 4:24*. Your born again spirit doesn't fall in and out of righteousness 1,000's of times over the course of your Christian life, otherwise Jesus would have to die often – *Heb 9:24-28; 1Peter 3:18*. The ongoing Christian battle is in the mind and flesh – *Rom 12:1-2; 2Cor 10:3-5; 1Peter 2:11*. The other third part of you (your spirit) is fully redeemed and as righteous as it'll ever be, as righteous as Jesus is – *2Cor 5:21; Eph 4:24; 1John 4:17*).

10 *If we **say that we have not sinned**, we make Him a liar* (either the **agnostic** or God is telling the truth – I'm going with God) *and His Word is not in us* (they're living in deception, blind to the simple truth of their need of a Savior. **RECEIVE** God's free gift of eternal redemption and eternal inheritance – *Heb 9:11-15; Rom 5:17; 10:9-10,13*).

So what's **sandwiched inbetween** the **sinless agnostic philosophy** of *verses 8 & 10?* – *1John 1:9* – written to unbelievers (specifically **agnostics**) to confess their sins and acknowledge their need to receive the forgiveness, righteousness and eternal life purchased by Jesus, the only Savior – vs 2-3. **Whose saying they have NO SIN?** Certainly not Christians – we all know we're sinners saved by grace. So this is not written to us – its written to those blinded and deceived by satan who're saying, "There is NO God; there is NO sin; there is NO judgment; we CANNOT have sinned; we have NO sin". This is the chapter to use in your witness when you encounter such deep deception.

God gave the doctrine of the revelation of the gospel to the **apostle Paul**. He hammered the Galatians who were missing it by insisting on adding obedience to the Law to Christ's finished work. If Christians confessing their sins was an integral part of the gospel to maintain relationship & fellowship with God, then why pray-tell did Paul not reference it one time in all his epistles? All his references to confession are positively confessing who we are in Christ – not once of our sins.

The Old Testament references to confessing our sins are before anyone was born again with a **perfectly righteous spirit** created in the identical likeness of a holy God.