

THE AUTHENTIC RESPONSE TO SIN

INTRODUCTION

Fellowship with God.

1 JOHN 1:5-2:2

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^[b] sin.⁸If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.¹My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

JOHN LAYS A FOUNDATION: GOD IS LIGHT

God is the perfect origin of the Gospel and we heard this first hand from his mouth through Jesus. Furthermore, God is absolutely holy and cannot tolerate anything incongruent with his holiness.

1 JOHN 1:6

“If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.”

RESPONSE 1: I DON'T NEED TO CHANGE HOW I LIVE

“Only God can judge me”

“Man sees the outside, but God sees the heart.”

1 JOHN 1:8

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

RESPONSE 2: I DON'T STRUGGLE WITH SIN ANYMORE

The story of the Trojan Horse

1 JOHN 1:10

“If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.” Here we have a third mishandling of sin.

RESPONSE 3: I'M A GOOD PERSON

Trusting in anything other than the finished work of Jesus leaves us in the most pessimistic predicament we could possibly find ourselves; hopelessly relying on trying harder, doing more, striving longer only to find that through our works we will have fallen far short of the standard against which we are measured, the holiness of God.

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1 JOHN 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

SLIDE 13: 1 JOHN 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

SLIDE 14: 1 JOHN 2:1-2

¹My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

THE AUTHENTIC RESPONSE TO SIN IS SURRENDER TO JESUS

The authentic response to sin is surrender to Jesus and it begins with the revelation that we alone cannot begin to come clean on the debt of our sin; understanding that our best laid efforts leave us stricken with poverty in the economy of God.