

*JULY 7, 2021 BIBLE STUDY*ANSWERS: 1 JOHN 1:1-2:11

1:1-5

- John defines eternal life in terms of Christ. It can be found only through faith in and fellowship with Jesus Christ (vv.2,6-7;2:22-25;5:20)
- God came into the world as human
- John, was an eyewitness to Jesus' life
- John had lived with Jesus, having personal, physical contact with Jesus
- He knew beyond any doubt that Jesus brings light and life

1:6

- To "walk in darkness" means to live in sin and immoral pleasure
- Such people do not "have fellowship with him"

1:7

- To believe in God's truth as revealed in his Word and to make a sincere and sustained effort by his grace to follow it in word and in deed
- "The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" refers to the ongoing work of sanctification within the believer and the continual cleansing through Christ's blood for our inadvertent sins
- John is probably not thinking here of deliberate sin against God, since he speaks of walking in the light.

1:8-10

- The false teachers not only denied that sin breaks fellowship with God (1:6)
- And they had a sinful nature (1:8)
- But they denied that their conduct involved any sin at all (1:10)
- That was a lie that ignored the basic truth: All people are sinners by nature and by practice. At conversion all our sins are forgiven-past, present, and future. Yet even after we become Christians, we still sin and still need to confess.
- This kind of confession is not offered to gain God's acceptance, but to remove the barrier to fellowship that our sin has put between us and him

2:1-2

- To people who are feeling guilty and condemned, John offers reassurance. They know they have sinned, and Satan (called the accuser – Revelation 12:10) is demanding the death penalty
- Jesus Christ is our advocate, defender, and the Judge's Son
- He has already suffered our penalty in our place.
- As our "atoning sacrifice," Jesus took on himself the punishment for our sins and satisfied God's righteous judgment against sin
- Forgiveness is now offered to everyone throughout the world and is received by those who turn to Christian repentance and faith

2:3-6

- You know that you belong to Christ if you do what Christ says and live as Christ wants.
- True Christian faith results in loving behaviour. That is why John says that the way we act can give us assurance that we belong to Christ

2:9-11

- These verses are not talking about disliking or disagreeing with Christian brothers and sisters.
- The focus is on the attitude that causes us to ignore or despise others or treat them as enemies.
- Christian love is not a feeling, but a choice
- If we choose to love others, God will help us express our love.

SOURCES:

1. Life Application Study Bible: NIV. (2005). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
2. Life in the Spirit Study Bible: NIV. (2003). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.