



Too Good to be True

Recap

We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the **Word (logos)** of life. [1 John 1:1](#)

In the beginning the **Word** already existed. [John 1:1](#)

Recap

If we **claim** to be without sin, we **deceive** ourselves and the **truth** is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from **all** unrighteousness. If we **claim** we have not sinned, we make him out to be a **liar** and his **word** is not in us. [Vs 8-10](#)

Recap

Forgiveness is the **intentional** seeking of a **restored active** relationship

It is also our path to **sustained exposure** to the divine

"Sin" is an outdated religious terminology, JIMMYTST

The word "**sin**" is an **outdated** religious terminology. It doesn't apply to us today. It is only a concept in the Jewish religion, which put them in bondage because they **mistakenly** thought "sin" separated them from their god.

The concept of sin came to an end officially in AD70 when the **Jewish old covenant** of law was made obsolete, signified by the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem by the Roman army.

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

It's **too good** to be true!!!!!!!!!!!!

This doesn't happen
without this



Divinity (**Word, creation**)

Faith

Decision (**dark/light, life**)



Forgiveness (**deception, faith**)

Why would God **forgive** me?

How can I **trust** this?

Let us first set out the problem. It is clear that Christianity is an **ethical** religion; that is what John is concerned to stress. But it is also clear that (humanity) is so often an **ethical failure**. Confronted with the demands of God, (we) admit them and accept them--and then **fail** to keep them. Here, then, there is a **barrier** erected between (humanity) and God. How can we, the sinner, ever enter into the presence of God, the all-holy? [William Barclay](#)

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world. [1 John 2:1-2](#)

We question John because we don't know Jesus like he did

"My little **children**." Both in Latin and in Greek diminutives carry a special affection. Children are the **second generation** who may not believe (even though they desperately want to) the founding truths of Jesus

so that you will not sin

Sin is:

Self deception: situational, my sin isn't my fault

Debt: my failings makes me feel unworthy of God

Separation: sin creates distance from God

Death: sin upon sin are my steps to my spiritual demise

"Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done **by us**." [John Stott](#)

The real problem with sin is its **repetitive/habitual** nature

"Sin destroys our relationship with others but also our relationship with God. The more we sin, the more it can **spiral** out of control. It brings fear, guilt and suffocates us." [Kandima Awendila](#)

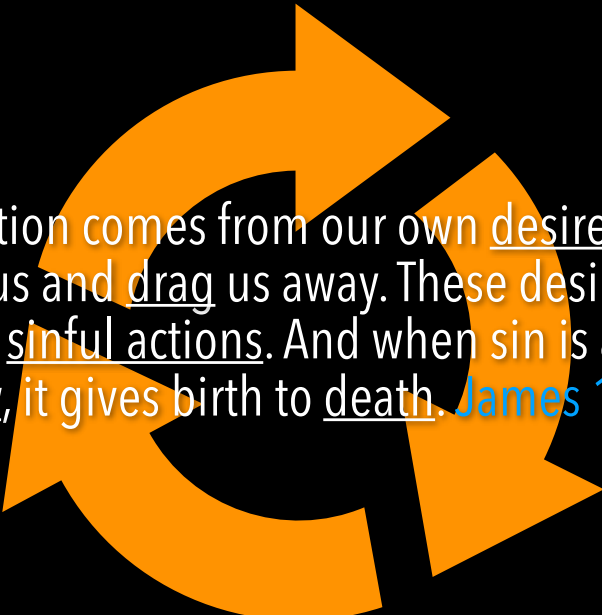
Sin is best understood like an **addiction**. Every addict wrestles with **day one**, a lapse in their abstinence is a **reset** of their struggle.

A relapse often proceeds in a series of 3 stages:

The **emotional relapse** stage begins long before you pick up a drug or drink. During this stage, you may begin to fail to cope with your emotions in a healthy way.

During the **mental relapse** stage, you are aware of holding conflicting feelings about sobriety. While a part of you may want to remain sober, another part may be battling cravings and secretly thinking about ways to relapse.

The **physical relapse** stage involves the final action of actually using drugs or alcohol. What begins as an initial lapse of having one drink or drug can quickly proceed to a full-blown relapse, where you feel that you have little to no control over using.



Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. [James 1:14-15](#)

if anyone does sin

If we claim we have no sin, we are only **fooling** ourselves 1:8

This High Priest of ours understands our **weaknesses**, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come **boldly** to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. [Hebrews 4:15-16](#)

For he knows how **weak** we are; he remembers we are only dust. [Psalm 103:14](#)

Advocate..Pleads Our Case

Even now my witness is in heaven. My **advocate** is there on high [Job 16:19](#)

Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honour at God's right hand, **pleading** for us. [Romans 8:34](#)

Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to **intercede** with God on their behalf. [Hebrews 7:25](#)

John juxtaposes Jesus and the enemy

Advocate..Pleads Our Case

Accusations are twisted truth

Advocate in the ancient world was **opposite** of accuser (think courtroom)

Then the angel showed me Jeshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord. The **Accuser**, Satan, was there at the angel's right hand, making accusations against Jeshua. [Zechariah 3:1](#)

For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth—the one who **accuses** them before our God day and night. [Revelation 12:10b](#)

And this is the crux (cross) of the **problem**. We want to draw close to God but we know what we **are**, what we've **done**. The voice of the accuser is always in our head

This is the **hidden** side of sin. If the voice of the accuser is not confronted then what we have done becomes a wall (brick by brick) between us and God

Sacrifice That Atones

Atonement

The word atonement comes from the old English concept **at-one-ment**

An act that brings together **unity** those who have been estranged, separated or divorced

Sacrifice That Atones

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been **made right in God's sight** by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. [Romans 5:8-9](#)

In fact, the entirety of the commandments of the Torah is a means of dealing with sin and related **contamination** in order to allow Yahweh to remain in the midst of his people. [Dr. Stephen De Young](#)

Sacrifice That Atones

"To believe that our sin is too much for God is to underestimate the **power** of the cross." [Nancy Leigh DeMoss](#)

Sin robs us of our **focus**. It eclipses the infinite Creator of the universe not by being great but by being consuming our attention

All the World

John's view of Jesus is that the **entire** world benefits from what He did

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to **save the world** through him. [John 3:16-17](#)

Why would God **forgive** me?
Because He has made it His **contractual**
obligation (If we...then He...)

How can I **trust** this?
Look to the **cross** to see how serious He is about it
(He is the sacrifice that atones for our sins)

"Jesus Christ came not to condemn you but to save you, **knowing** your name, **knowing** all about you, **knowing** your weight right now, **knowing** your age, **knowing** what you do, **knowing** where you live, **knowing** what you ate for supper and what you will eat for breakfast, where you will sleep tonight, how much your clothing cost, who your parents were. He **knows** you individually as though there were not another person in the entire world. He died for you as certainly as if you had been the only lost one. He **knows the worst about you and is the One who loves you the most.**" A.W. Tozer

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world. [1 John 2:1-2](#)

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