

Flag Branch Missionary Baptist Church  
Baptist Training Union

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> John**  
How Should A Christian Live

**Study 2: Undeniable Sin and Forgiveness – 1 John 1:8 - 2:2**

8. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
9. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
10. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.
1. My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
2. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

**An Analogy of Sin used in 1 John 1:8 in context.**

Once, and it need be only once, a person breaks the law and is found guilty, he or she is a criminal and has a criminal record.

For such a person to then say they don't have a record or is not a criminal is to deny the facts and truth. Neither can they say they are not a criminal or have the stigma associated with being a criminal neither object to being called or referred to as a criminal. The severity of the crime is irrelevant.

Does this criminal condition or state mean they have committed other crimes or will or even must commit other crimes? But whether they do or don't, they are still a criminal.

Because one is an undeniable criminal, does not mean one has to, must or is compelled to commit other crimes.

The same is true concerning sin. Because one is an undeniable sinner (likewise it only takes one sin to be a sinner/like one crime a criminal), doesn't mean one must commit other sins no more than an undeniable criminal must commit other crimes.

Being capable of other crimes or sin doesn't mean one will commit them.

1 John 1:8 only declares no person can deny that they are a sinner (a criminal), guilty of transgressing God's law. A sinner is a criminal of divine law and God has declared a record of such.

What it is not saying and many are reading into the text is that because one is a sinner one must or cannot avoid to further transgress divine law. This is like saying a criminal must commit other crimes.

## Discussion

- A. Who is the “we” John is referring to? What does it mean “to have” anything? What are some examples? v. 8
- B. What does John mean by “have not sin”? What happens to sin once it is committed? Does it or can it disappear? Can the person who committed it ever disown it? What does the bible say about it? v. 8
- C. To say or know that someone has something mean that they will or must acquire more of it? Give an example. Likewise, to say or know that someone has sin mean they that will or must sin again? Why or why not? v. 8.
- D. What is the purpose John is establishing in this verse? Could it be to establish the need for a Savior? What else has its purpose or meaning been taken to be? v. 8.
- E. What is a confession? How does or can a person “confess” anything? Give an example. How can or does a person “confess” sin? v. 9.
- F. What does John say will happen to our sin if we confess them? Did he say or imply they will go away, cease to exist, that we will commit more or any other thing will happen? v. 9
- G. How would you define or describe the word “cleansed”? What then does it mean to be “cleansed from all unrighteousness”? v. 9
- H. How does John say a person can call God a liar? Does John say or imply anything about the number of times or frequency of one’s sin? v. 10.
- I. How is what John said in v. 8 different from what he says in v. 10? Do they both have the same objective, meaning and purpose or are they different? If so, how? v. 8, 10.
- J. Why does John say he is writing what he has written? Based on his stated purpose, what is John’s expectation of his readers concerning sin? “If” signals a contingency. What is a contingency? What is the contingency and why is it significant in this verse? v. 2
- K. The word “propitiation” means “atoning sacrifice”. What does those two words mean to you? How does it relate back to John’s purpose and meaning in v. 8-10. v. 2