

# First John

## 1 Jn. 2:1-6



1 Jn. 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.



I. GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN – LIVING AT HOME IN  
THE SPHERE WHERE THE FATHER IS LOVED,

1:1-3:24

A. How We Share the Family Life, 1:1-2:29

1. The Beginning of that Life, 1:1-4

a. Some Tangible Evidence, 1:1

b. Some Transmitted Evidence, 1:2

c. Some Tested Evidence, 1:3-4

(1) Good News, 1:3

(a) How true it all is, 1:3a

(b) How tremendous it all is, 1:3b

(2) Glad News, 1:4



## 2. The Basis of that Life, 1:5-2:2

a. A Fact to be Considered, 1:5

b. A Formula to be Considered, 1:6-10

(1) Beware of darkness, 1:6-7

(a) Darkness exposed, 1:6

(b) Darkness expelled, 1:7

i. The common bond in Christ,

ii. The cleansing blood of Christ,

(2) Beware of deception, 1:8-9

(a) Sin denied, 1:8

(b) Sin decried, 1:9

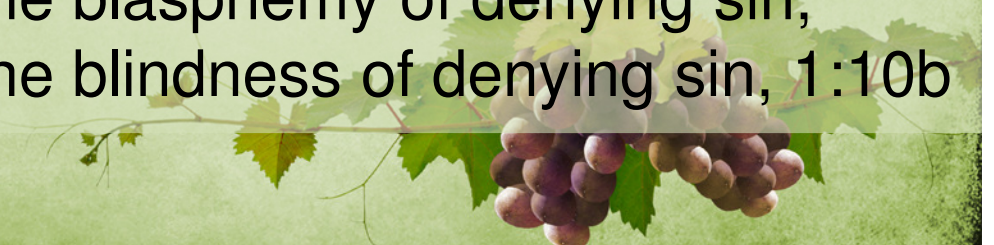
i. Confession, 1:9a

ii. Cleansing, 1:9b

(3) Beware of defamation, 1:10

(a) The blasphemy of denying sin,

(b) The blindness of denying sin, 1:10b



Chapter one concludes with a message for believers regarding sin:

1 Jn. 1: 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.

Though sin is inevitable, we are not to develop callousness or complacency. Some may look at sin with a sense of surrender, while some may consider sin's dominion easily overcome by God's gracious forgiveness, and therefore take it lightly.



Chapter two continues the focus upon the subject of sin and begins with a proposition:

c. A Fundamental to be Considered, 2:1-2

(1) The Proposition, 2:1a “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not...”

Original Word: τέκνιον

Transliteration: teknion

Definition: a little child.

*Teknion* (the diminutive form of *téknōn*, "child") – a *little* child; (figuratively) someone *deeply loved (endeared)*.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/5040.htm>

Jn. 13:33 **Little children**, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you.

Gal. 4:19 My **little children**, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

1 Jn. 2:1 My **little children**, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: ...

12 I write unto you, **little children**, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. ...

28 And now, **little children**, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.



1 Jn. 3:7 **Little children**, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. ...

18 My **little children**, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

1 Jn. 4:4 Ye are of God, **little children**, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

1 Jn. 5:21 **Little children**, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

John uses the term “little children” as one of endearment.



## (2) The Provision, 2:1b-c

(a) Our Advocate's concern, 2:1b  
“...And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ...”

Jn. 5:14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: **sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.**

- THE IDEAL = “...sin not...”
- THE REAL = “...And if any man sin...”



1 Cor. 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Phil. 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Heb. 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing **he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**

Heb. 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, **now to appear in the presence of God for us:**



Original Word: παράκλητος

Transliteration: paraklétos

Definition: (a) an advocate, intercessor, (b) a consoler, comforter, helper, (c) Paraclete.

*paráklētos* (from *pará*, "from close-beside" and *kaléō*, "make a call") – properly, a *legal advocate* who makes the right judgment-*call* because *close* enough to the situation. /*paráklētos* ("advocate, advisor-helper") is the regular term in NT times of an *attorney* (lawyer) – i.e. someone *giving evidence that stands up in court*.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/3875.htm>

(b) Our Advocate's character, 2:1c

"...Jesus Christ the righteous:"



Original Word: δίκαιος

Transliteration: dikaios

Definition: just; especially, just in the eyes of God; righteous; the elect (a Jewish idea

*díkaios* (an adjective, derived from *dikē*, "right, judicial approval") – properly, "*approved by God*" (J. Thayer); *righteous*; "*just in the eyes of God*" (Souter) relates to *conformity to God's standard* (justice). <http://biblehub.com/greek/1342.htm>

### (3) The Propitiation, 2:2

(a) The efficiency of Christ's work, 2:2a  
"And he is the propitiation for  
our sins..."



Original Word: ἱλασμός

Transliteration: hilasmos

Short Definition: a propitiation, atoning sacrifice

*hilasmós* – properly, *propitiation*; an offering to *appease* (*satisfy*) an *angry, offended* party. (*hilasmós*) is only used twice (1 Jn. 2:2, 4:10) – both times of *Christ's atoning* blood that *appeases God's wrath, on all confessed sin*. By the *sacrifice of Himself*, Jesus Christ provided the ultimate *hilasmós* ("propitiation").

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2434.htm>

1 Jn. 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that **he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**



(b) The sufficiency of Christ's work,  
2:2b "...and not for ours only, but also  
for the sins of the whole world."

2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we  
thus judge, that if **one died for all**, then were all dead:

15 And that **he died for all**, that they which live should not  
henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them,  
and rose again. ...

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling the world unto  
himself**, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath  
committed unto us the word of reconciliation.



Heb. 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that **he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.**

Rev. 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will**, let him take the water of life freely.

Jn. 1:12 But **as many as received him**, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Rom. 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ **unto all and upon all them that believe**: for there is no difference:



John articulated four fundamental principles that underlie fellowship with God to facilitate his readers' experience of that fellowship;

- One must renounce sin (1:8—2:2)
- Obey God (2:3-11)
- Reject worldliness (2:12-17)
- Keep the faith (2:18-29) to live in the light of God's presence.

### 3. The Betrayal of that Life, 2:3-11

#### a. The test of the Lord's person, 2:3-5



(1) The claim to know Him put into perspective, 2:3

1 Jn. 2:3 And hereby we **do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.**

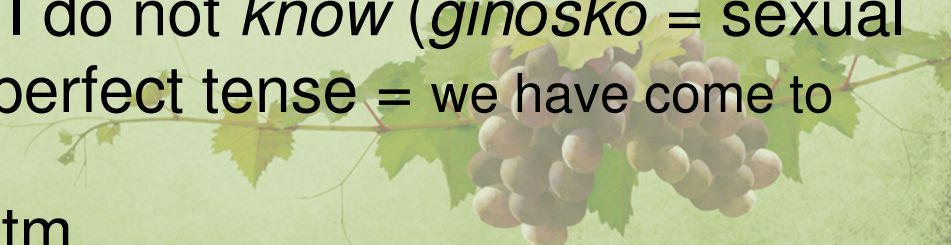
Original Word: γινώσκω

Transliteration: ginóskó

Definition: I am taking in knowledge, come to know, learn; aor: I ascertained, realized.

*ginóskō* – properly, *to know*, especially through *personal experience (first-hand acquaintance)*. *ginóskō* ("experientially know") is used for example in Lk 1:34, "And Mary [a virgin] said to the angel, 'How will this be since I do not *know* (*ginóskō* = sexual intimacy) a man?'" (2<sup>nd</sup> usage is perfect tense = we have come to know

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1097.htm>



Original Word: τηρέω

Transliteration: téreó

Definition: I keep, guard, observe, watch over.

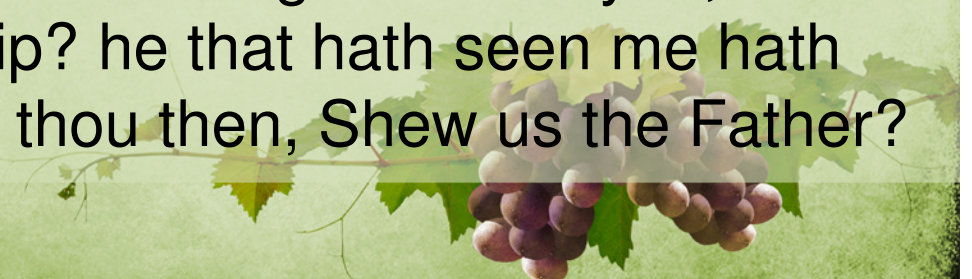
*tēréō* (from *tēros*, "a guard") – properly, maintain (preserve);  
(figuratively) *spiritually guard* (watch), *keep intact*.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/5083.htm>

Jn. 14:7 **If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also:** and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?



21 **He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me:** and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

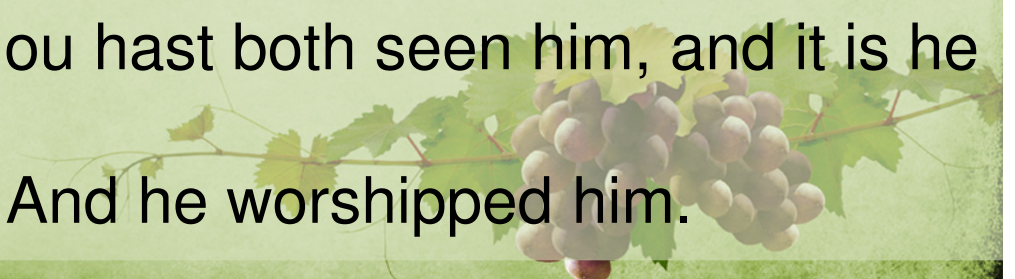
23 Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Jn. 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.



Jn. 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

(2) The claim to know Him put to the proof, 2:4-5

(a) The lie test, 2:4

1 Jn. 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.



Jn. 8:55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but **I know him, and keep his saying.**

1 Jn. 2:4 **He that saith**, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ...

6 **He that saith** he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. ...

9 **He that saith** he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

Claim	Condition
"I know Him" (v. 4; cf. <a href="#">John 17:3</a> )	He "keeps His word" (v. 5)
"I abide in him" (v. 6; cf. <a href="#">John 15:4</a> )	He "walk[s] . . . as He walked" (v. 6)
"I am in the light" (v. 9; cf. <a href="#">John 12:46</a> )	He "loves his brother" (v. 10)

## (b) The love test, 2:5

1 Jn. 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

Original Word: τελειόω

Transliteration: teleioó

Short Definition: I complete, accomplish, make perfect

*teleióō* – to consummate, reaching the *end-stage*, i.e. working through the entire process (stages) to reach the *final* phase (*conclusion*). <http://biblehub.com/greek/5048.htm>



b. The test of the Lord's precept, 2:6-8

(1) A confident expectation, 2:6

1 Jn. 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.





### Conclusion

Jn. 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 **Abide in me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it **abide** in the vine; no more can ye, **except ye abide in me**.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that **abideth in me**, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.



7 If ye **abide in me**, and **my words abide in you**, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: **continue ye in my love**.

10 If ye **keep my commandments**, ye shall **abide in my love**; even **as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love**.