

...So that you may not Sin! (1 John 2:1)

- “My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.” (1 John 2:1)
- “We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them.” (1 John 5:18)
- Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them...” (1 John 2:15-16)
- “...God is light;... in him there is no darkness at all...⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,” (1 John 1:5-7)
- Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:7-8

I) Early Gnosticism of 1, 2, 3 John

- **Gnostics believed they had secret knowledge** which only their followers could receive.
- **Gnostics believed in dualism: matter is evil and spirit is good.**
Therefore, they denied Jesus' humanity, and did not believe that He really came in the body, only appeared to be. This is called "Docetism."
Christ's spirit came at baptism and left before crucifixion.
- **Therefore**, because matter and spirit is separate, sin committed in the body has no connection to the spirit. They were either given to asceticism or to permissiveness and absolute indulgence of immorality.
- **The Gnostics came out from among them** (1 John 2:19), they did not believe in the Son of God and the true God, the Father. (vs. 2:22,23; 5:20)

II) We are “Born Again,” “In Him,” “In the Light,” “have Eternal Life” ...

- A) If we walk in the light, not in darkness!** “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.” (1 John 1:7) “Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light,” (1 John 2:9-10)
- B) If we keep His commandments!** “We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴ Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.” (1 John 2:3-4) Ref: (3:24)
- C) If we love the Father and do His will!** “The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.” (1 John 2:17)

- D) If we confess that the Son is from the Father!** “No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.” (1 John 2:23)
Ref: (vs. 4:1-3,15)
- E) If we practice righteousness as He is righteous!** “If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.” (1 John 2:29) “Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.” (1 John 3:7)
- F) If we abide in Him, see Him, or know Him (instead of practicing sin and lawlessness)!** “No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him...⁸ The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work. ⁹ **No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.**” (1 John 3:6-9)

- G) If we love one another and abide in His love, because love is from God and God is love! “No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, **God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.**” (1 John 4:12) Ref: (v. 4:16,20,21)**
- H) If we overcome the world by faith and by believing that Jesus is the Son of God! “for everyone born of God **overcomes the world.** This is the victory that has overcome the world, **even our faith.** ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the **one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.**” (1 John 5:4-5)**

III) We love the Father, not the world!

- A) Not the cravings of sinful man!** “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)
- B) Not the lust of the eyes!** “Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” (Matthew 4:8-10)
- C) Not the pride of life!** “For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.” (1 Samuel 15:23)

IV) Unlike the Gnostics, As Born Again Children...

- A) We confess our sins!** “My 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. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:1-2) Ref: (v. 1:9)
- B) We do the will of God!** “The world and its desires pass away, **but** whoever does the will of God lives forever.” (1 John 2:17)
- C) We wait for His appearing!** “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” (1 John 3:2)
- D) We purify ourselves just as He is pure!** All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.” (1 John 3:3)

- E) We love one another as He has loved us, not out of fear!** “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:16-18) Ref: (1 John 4:16-18)
- F) We confidently approach God and ask according to His will!** “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” (1 John 5:14-15)
- G) We have fellowship with the Father and the Son and with one another!** “We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We write this to make our joy complete.” (1 John 1:3-4)