

A Study of 1 John
“How Do You REALLY Know that You are Walking in the Light?”
By Doug Hamilton

I. Correct Perspective of Jesus

A. Jesus came in the flesh.

1 John 1:1-4 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—² and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—³ what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.⁴ These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

- From the very opening of the letter, John wanted the Gnostic teachers and the other Christians “to know” that Jesus came in the flesh. John heard the very words of Jesus roll off His tongue, for he was with Jesus during the entire earthly ministry. He was an eye witness to the fleshly Jesus having seen Him with his own eyes, even examining Him up close. John touched Jesus, even leaning against Him during the Last Supper. Jesus most definitely came in the flesh.
- The word that John uses for testify is the same word for martyr. John and the other apostles were willing to be martyred for the Jesus that did come in the flesh. James was executed by Herod Agrippa; Thaddeus was martyred in Persia; Peter was crucified upside down on a cross in Rome; Andrew was crucified in Achaia; Matthew died a martyr in Ethiopia; John was exiled to the Island of Patmos. When John said that “we” the apostles seen and testified and proclaimed, they did it to the point of persecution and execution. Don’t try to tell the people that personally knew Jesus that He really did not come in the flesh.
- There are those today that are doing everything they can do to teach that Jesus did not come in the flesh.
 - Some are teaching that there really was not a real Jesus of history that came in the flesh. This is despite multiple historical accounts outside of the New Testament that say He was a real man of history.
 - Others are teaching that Jesus really did not come in the flesh, but only in spirit. From this they conclude that Jesus really did not die, but only appeared to die, being spirited away from the tomb to live the remainder of His days here on earth.
- We cannot be in the proper walk with Jesus if we cannot hold to this truth about Jesus having come in the flesh. *1 John 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*² *By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;*³ *and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.*
- We must have a clear understanding that Jesus really did come in the flesh just like you and I are in the flesh. Without it we cannot know that we are walking in the light.

B. Jesus is the Son of God.

1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

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- What did it mean to refer to Jesus as the Son of God? When this phrase was used, it communicated that Jesus shared all the qualities of His father. We have heard it said, “This person is a chip off the old block.” This is referring to the shared qualities of a son to the father.
- The same is true when comparing it to Jesus as being the Son of God, for He shares the same qualities with the Father in heaven.
 - *Hebrews 1:3 “And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature...”*
 - *Matthew 1:23 “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.”*
 - *John 20:27-28 Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.” 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”*
 - *Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*
 - *1 Tim 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh...”*
- It is in knowing that Jesus is Deity that we can have a great confidence in entrusting our soul to Him. Would you want your Savior to be less than God?
 - 1 John 5:5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
 - 1 John 5:10-12 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. ¹¹ And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

C. Jesus is the Christ.

1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the *child* born of Him.

- John said that there is a necessity to recognize that Jesus is the Christ in order to know that you are born of God. What does it mean to hold to the perspective that Jesus is the Christ? The word for Christ is *Christos*, meaning Messiah or the Anointed One. John makes this clear in his gospel account:
 - *John 1:41 He found first his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which translated means Christ).*
 - *John 4:25 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”*
- The people of Israel had been expecting a coming Messiah since the Garden of Eden. Throughout the Old Testament they received hundreds of clues as to Who this Messiah would be.

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- In Genesis He was referred to as the *One* that would bruise the head of the serpent (3:15), Melchizedek (Gen 14:18), Jehovah Jireh (22:14) and Shiloh (Gen 49:10).
- In Exodus He was the *Rock* that brought forth water to the nation (17) and the deliverance of the nation through the sea (Exodus 12).
- In Leviticus He was the Red Bird offering (13), the *scapegoat* and Day of Atonement Offering (16).
- In Numbers He was the *Red Heifer* (19) and a “*star come out of Jacob*” and a Scepter of the Nation (24:7).
- In Deuteronomy He was called the Moses-like *Prophet* to come (18:18).
- In Joshua He was seen as the sword-carrying Captain of the Lord of hosts (5:13).
- In Ruth He was seen as the re-born seed line of hope (4:18-22).
- In 2 Samuel He was seen as the coming *offspring* (7:12).
- In Psalms He was called the Son (2:7), the forsaken one (22:1), Lord (110:1), the *Stone which the builders rejected* (118:22).
- the unnamed One of Proverbs 30:4.
- In Jeremiah He was called the *Righteous Branch* (23:5).
- In Isaiah He was prophesied as the virgin birth (7:14), Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father Prince of Peace (9:6), the Root of Jesse, (11:10) and the Lamb led to slaughter (Isaiah 53:7).
- In Daniel He was referred to as the *Stone* (2:34), the Son of Man (7:13-14), the Anointed One (9:24) and the Prince (9:25).
- In Hosea it predicted that He would come through Egypt (11:1).
- In Jonah He was the third day in a fish (1:17).
- In Haggai it said that He would be a visitor to His temple (2:7).
- In Zechariah He was referred to as the donkey-riding King (9:9) and House of David (12:10).
- In Micah He was to be born in Bethlehem (5:2).
- In Malachi He would be ushered in by a messenger (Mal 3:1).
- To not be able to say the Jesus is the Christ is to deny the Almighty planning of God in the scheme of redemption. One simply has to go back to the Book of Acts and see that the Old Testament prophecy was the foundation of the New Testament (Acts 3:18, 7:42, 8:35, 17:2, 24:14; 26:27). They clearly wanted to show Jesus as the Christ, the expected Messiah of God.
- *1John 2:22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.* Make sure that you are passing this test of walking in the light, the test that says Jesus is the Christ!

D. Jesus is the Propitiation.

1 John 2:1-2 My little children, I am writing these things 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 *those* of the whole world.

- We are reminded that we have a sin problem and a sin solution all in the same verse. The solution is Jesus Christ the righteous, for He is the propitiation or *satisfaction* for ours

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only, but also the sins of the whole world. We cannot really understand *walking in the light* if we do not know what the *Light* has done for us.

- *1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. It is out of His great love for us that even have the strength to walk in the light.*
- *Romans 3:24-25 “...being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith...”*
- *Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. We can trust Him because He knows what it is like to be us.*
- Jesus took our place on the cross, for we were deserving of the death that He suffered. We can never be right in our walk with Jesus if this is not incorporated in our perspective of Jesus.
 - *1 Peter 2:21-24 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, ²² WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; ²³ and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; ²⁴ and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*
 - *Hebrews 9:28 “...so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many...”*
 - *2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

We must have the correct perspective of Jesus if we are ever going to know that we are walking the light. We must know that He came in the flesh; that He is the Son of God; that He is the Christ and that He is our Propitiation.