

Devotional Questions – 1 John 2:1-14

1. *What encouragement does John give for us when we sin (1 John 2:1-2)?*
2. *What does Jesus speak to the Father about for us (1 John 2:1)?*
3. *Why does John say that Jesus died for our sins, but not only ours, but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2)?*
4. *How can we know if someone is a real Christian (1 John 2:3-6)?*
5. *What does it mean for God's love to be made complete* in us (1 John 2:5)? *The correct term is "perfected."*
6. *What does it mean to walk as Jesus walked (1 John 2:6)?*
7. *In what way is the command to love one another* an old command and a new command* (1 John 2:7)? *This is not what 1 John 2:7 says. The question has been misconstrued. See answer to Question 7.*
8. *What does John mean by hatred for other believers (1 John 2:9)?*
9. *Why would love for our brother rather than love for God serve as a test for being in the light (1 John 2:9-11)?*
10. *What encouragement does John want his readers to get from reading this letter (1 John 2:12-14)?*

How does this link to 1 John 2:1-4?

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Answers to Questions

For detailed comments see Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Books of the General Epistles* Volume 2 pp vii-xii, 31-56 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1633-1634, 1648.

1. *What encouragement does John give for us when we sin (1 John 2:1-2)?*

The Christian has a threefold interrelated encouragement:

- **“an advocate with the Father”** 1 John 2:1

Paul explains the Lord's *advocacy ministry* for the Christian against any accuser, especially **“the accuser of our brethren”** Revelation 12:10.

“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us” Romans 8:34.

- **“Jesus Christ the righteous”** 1 John 2:1

Paul explains the Lord's *imputed righteousness ministry* for the Christian, Romans 4:22, 23, 24, against sin in, 1 John 1:8, and of, 1 John 1:10, the Christian.

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” 2 Corinthians 5:21.

- **“the propitiation for our sins”** 1 John 2:2

Paul explains the Lord's *propitiatory sacrificial ministry* for the Christian **“through faith in his blood.”**

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God” Romans 3:24-25.

See attached study on **Propitiation** following answer to *Question 10*.

2. *What does Jesus speak to the Father about for us (1 John 2:1)?*

See answer to *Question 1*. The Lord Jesus Christ addresses the Father according to Paul's testimony that the Lord can truthfully cite for every believer in Him.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” Galatians 2:20.

3. *Why does John say that Jesus died for our sins, but not only ours, but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2)?*

John states that because the Lord Jesus Christ did die for the sins of the whole world.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” John 3:16.

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” John 3:17.

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world” John 6:51.

“Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life” Romans 5:18.

“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” 2 Corinthians 5:15.

“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” 2 Corinthians 5:19.

“For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe” 1 Timothy 4:10.

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men” Titus 2:11.

“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” Hebrews 2:9.

4. *How can we know if someone is a real Christian (1 John 2:3-6)?*

The essential criterion is with respect to *keeping God’s words*.

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

This criterion applies for God’s saints throughout the scriptures.

“And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live” Deuteronomy 8:3.

“And testifiedst against them, that thou mightest bring them again unto thy law: yet they dealt proudly, and hearkened not unto thy commandments, but sinned against thy judgments, (which if a man do, he shall live in them;) and withdrew the shoulder, and hardened their neck, and would not hear” Nehemiah 9:29.

“Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope” Psalm 119:116.

“He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live” Proverbs 4:4.

“For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word” Isaiah 66:2.

“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts” Jeremiah 15:16.

“And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them” Ezekiel 20:11.

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” Matthew 4:4.

“And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God” Luke 4:4.

“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” John 14:23.

“And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost” 1 Thessalonians 1:6.

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe” 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

“I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name” Revelation 3:8.

Note that it was the *Philadelphian Church*, 1500-1900, of the *King James Bible Text*, that God commends for having kept His words, *not the Apostolic Church* of the 1st century and ‘the originals.’

5. *What does it mean for God’s love to be made complete* in us (1 John 2:5)?* *The correct term is **“perfected.”**

It means that when the believer has kept the Lord’s words as David did, **“I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies: for all my ways are before thee”** Psalm 119:168, he becomes a man **“with a perfect heart”** Psalm 101:2 whom the Lord perceives as **“a man after his own heart”** 1 Samuel 13:14, who will faithfully do all that God commands him, as **“the disciples of the Lord did”** Acts 9:1 according to Matthew 21:6 **“And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them.”**

Have you got anything else to do in the next 24 hours 😊?

God said this of David, as Paul explains. Like Matthew 21:6, Acts 13:22 is a perfect goal for any Christian.

“And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will” Acts 13:22.

As Paul also said:

“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is” Ephesians 5:17.

6. *What does it mean to walk as Jesus walked (1 John 2:6)?*

1 John 2:6 states **“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”**

When the Lord walked, He pleased God i.e. fulfilled all His will according to Acts 13:22.

“And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him” John 8:29.

That should be the aim for today’s believer, as Paul exhorts.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” Ephesians 2:10.

“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God” Colossians 1:9-10.

“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more” 1 Thessalonians 4:1.

“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” Hebrews 13:20-21.

7. In what way is the command to love one another* an old command and a new command* (1 John 2:7)? *This is not what 1 John 2:7 says. The question has been misconstrued. See answer to Question 7.

1 John 2:7 states **“Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.”**

“The old commandment” to which John is referring is therefore as Paul said of it **“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God”** Acts 20:27 **“that is, the word of faith which we preach”** Romans 10:8.

It is also **“the word of God, which effectually worketh also in ye that believe”** 1 Thessalonians 2:13, see Question 4 above, and as David notes encouragingly for today’s believer **“Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever”** Psalm 119:160.

As Peter confirms with respect to **“the old commandment”** 1 John 2:7 to which John refers:

“But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you” 1 Peter 1:25.

“The old commandment” is therefore in its entirety **“the book of the LORD”** Isaiah 34:16, the 1611 Holy Bible.

Note that John then refers in particular to **“a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you”** 1 John 2:8 that stems from **“the old commandment”** and impinges on love of the brethren, a quality that the Lord attributed to true believers and His true disciples.

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” John 13:34-35.

8. What does John mean by hatred for other believers (1 John 2:9)?

1 John 2:9 states **“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.”** Possible manifest examples of the individual that 1 John 2:9 describes are:

That individual may manifest the *infection* of hatred according to 1 John 2:9 in that he has:

- forgotten that **“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple”** Psalm 119:130
- **“forgotten that he was purged from his old sins”** 2 Peter 1:9
- forgotten that **“...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin”** 1 John 1:7.

That individual may manifest the *symptoms* of hatred according to 1 John 2:9 in that he has:

- forsaken the directive will of God in that **“as I have loved you, that ye also love one another”** John 13:34
- forsaken fellowship with God in that **“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth”** 1 John 1:6
- forsaken fellowship with other believers in that **“...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another”** 1 John 1:7.

That individual may manifest the *effects* of hatred according to 1 John 2:9 in that he has:

- *forborne to relieve impoverished believers practically* in that “...whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” 1 John 3:17
- *forborne to receive repentant believers relationally* in that “...contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swallowed up with over-much sorrow” 2 Corinthians 2:7
- *forborne to restore wavering believers spiritually* in that “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted” Galatians 6:1.

In that “Only by pride cometh contention” Proverbs 13:10, Paul has an excellent exhortation against hatred according to 1 John 2:9.

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others” Philipians 2:3-4.

9. Why would love for our brother rather than love for God serve as a test for being in the light (1 John 2:9-11)?

See end of *Question 7* and *Question 8*. The simple answer is that the test is for believers and *speaking practically*, a right result must *be manifest* as John himself explains in the next chapter.

“In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother” 1 John 3:10.

10. What encouragement does John want his readers to get from reading this letter (1 John 2:12-14)?

How does this link to 1 John 2:1-4?

Note that the readers include a wide spectrum of believers, young old, in-betweeners i.e. “*little children...fathers...young men*” 1 John 2:12, 13, 14. John’s letter leaves no generation gaps.

The essential links appear to be with respect to 1 John 2:1, 2, 3. See below.

- *Assurance of forgiveness* 1 John 2:12 according to 1 John 2:1-2 “...if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world”
- *Assurance of salvation* 1 John 2:13 according to 1 John 2:3 “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments” in that “his commandments are not grievous” 1 John 5:3
- *Assurance of victory* 1 John 2:13, 14 according to 1 John 2:14 “the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one” in that “...they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death” Revelation 12:11.

The sombre conclusion to Revelation 12:11 is an incentive to keep in mind Paul’s exhortation to the Corinthians with respect to living victoriously in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 15:57.

Propitiation

Based on *Reply to DiVietro's Attack on Gail Riplinger – Flotsam Flush* pp 108-109
www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/james-white-dr-divietro-and-dawaite.php

“Propitiation” from the Scriptures

Concerning the word propitiate, or the related Biblical term ***“propitiation”*** Romans 3:25, 1 John 2:2, 4:10, again ‘the Greek’ isn’t necessary to determine the meaning of the word.

Following Dr Mrs Riplinger’s approach¹, the word ***“propitiation”*** is understood from scripture as follows.

Romans 3:24-25 ***“Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;”***

1 John 2:1-2 ***“Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”***

1 John 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.”***

Propitiation is a Person

“Propitiation,” like salvation, Luke 2:30, 19:9, is above all a Person², ***“Jesus Christ the righteous.”*** God is a personal God, not simply a theological or doctrinal God.

Dr DiVietro gives no indication of any lexicon that reveals this basic meaning of the word ***“propitiation.”***

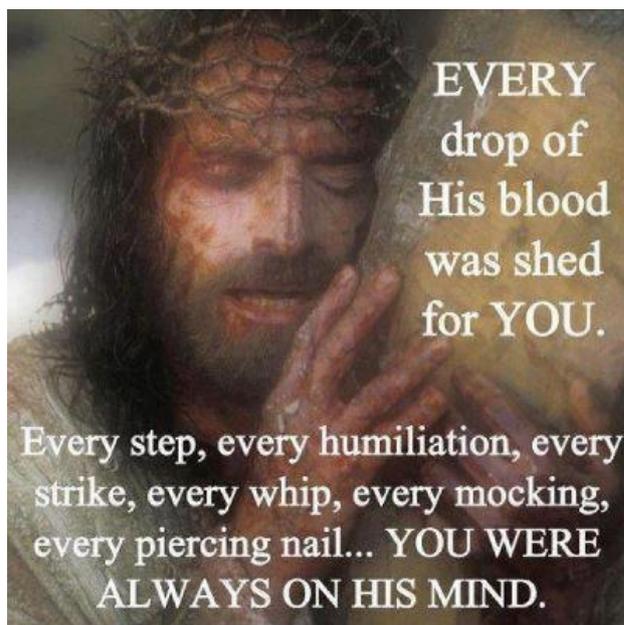
The scripture, however, gives further insight into this meaning.

1 John 4:14 states ***“And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.”***

In sum, ***“The Saviour”*** and ***“the propitiation”*** are one and the same. He is ***“Jesus Christ the righteous”*** or ***“Jehovah is salvation”***³ Matthew 1:21, Who is ***“the Messiah the Prince”*** Daniel 9:25 and ***“the Holy One”*** 1 John 2:20, anointed of the Holy Ghost Luke 3:22, 4:18.

The word ***“propitiation”*** may be understood in more detail by a study of what the Lord Jesus Christ did as ***“the Saviour of the world.”***

As such, He is ***“the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”*** John 1:29.



“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” Isaiah 53:5
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Propitiation is “Christ our Passover”

Therefore, as Paul states in 1 Corinthians 5:7 **“For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.”**

Ephesians 5:2, Hebrews 7:26-27, 9:26, 1 Peter 1:18-19 are all important in the context of **“Christ our Passover,”** along with Genesis 8:21.

“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”

“For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.”

“For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” 1 Peter 1:18-19.

“And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake; for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.”

Propitiation is “the Saviour” and “savour”

The voluntary, sinless sacrifice **“which taketh away the sin of the world”** of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself **“to God”** as **“a sweetsmelling savour”** turned away God’s wrath as Noah’s sacrifice did after the flood, for anyone who believes that the Lord Jesus Christ is both **“the Saviour”** and **“savour”** for him personally, John 3:36.

This is **“propitiation.”**

Dr Waite and Dr DiVietro may dismiss this analysis as an example of having to **“chase all over the King James Bible to find the definitions of its words”**⁴ but maybe the exercise would do them good. See Acts 17:10, 11.

References

¹ *In Awe of Thy Word* by G. A. Riplinger www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html pp 81-82

² *Ruckman Reference Bible*, p 1638

³ *The Oxford Bible Reader’s Dictionary & Concordance*

⁴ *Dr D. A. Waite and The Dead Bible Society* www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/james-white-dr-divietro-and-dawaite.php p 6

The Saving Work of Jesus Christ

- Redemption = Jesus Christ
PAID THE PRICE for all sins 
- Propitiation = Jesus Christ
SATISFIED the justice of God
the Father 
- Reconciliation = God’s
PEACE TREATY with the
entire human race 

Propitiation – Christ’s Appeasement of
God’s Justifiable Wrath

www.lbible.org/index.php?proc=msg&sf=vw&tid=429