



What If a True Christian Sins? **1 John 2:1-6**

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1 John 2:1—ESV).

Among the gospel writers, none of them expressed the tender love of Jesus Christ for His followers more than John, for he addressed his readers as “My little children.” Everything John wrote expressed the love of Jesus Christ that flowed in and through him. John knew the damage that sin could do to someone and to those they loved. John defined sin as lawlessness, and because he loved his brothers and sisters in Christ, he did not want them to act lawlessly and hurt others and themselves. John also recognized that no follower of Christ will act, live, and speak perfectly until they meet Jesus face-to-face, either when Jesus Christ comes again or when they go to heaven to be with the Lord. John knew that every follower of Jesus would do something lawless sometimes, but lawlessness was the exception to the standard by which they habitually tried to live. To avoid utterly crushing the spirit of his fellow believers, John encouraged them by writing that if we do sin, we have an Advocate, a Defense Attorney, who will plead for and represent us before God our Father. There will be no better Defense Attorney in our behalf than Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, because Jesus “is the atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 John 2:2). He died for us and He rose from the dead for us that we might live forever with Him and all who love Him. Our Advocate will only need to say in our behalf that He justly and mercifully died a sacrificial death for us so we would not suffer eternal punishment. Though we may need to suffer just punishment for our lawless behavior in this life, as ruled by a court of law, we will not suffer punishment in heaven, because by the grace of God we have become children of God through our faith in Jesus Christ. Remember, the Father and His Son, Jesus, agreed to graciously give eternal life to all who would trust and follow Him.