

# Jesus Christ – Our Advocate

(1 John 1:8-2:2)

## Introduction

One of the first century heresies is the *Gnosticism*.

*Gnosticism* from the Greek word *gnosis* which means “to know.” The Gnostics were “in the know” – that is, they processed to have superior knowledge of spiritual things. Their doctrine was a strange blending of some Christian truth, Jewish legalism, Greek philosophy, and Eastern mysticism.

The one of the main tenets of Gnosticism was dualism. Dualism meant that all matter is evil and spirit is good.

## Introduction

The problem with the Gnostics - Doctrinal

The Gnostics denied Jesus is God in the flesh. They denied Jesus was the Christ.

### 1 John 2:22 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup>Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.

## Introduction

The problem with the Gnostics - Morality

Since the spirit is separate from the body, morality does not matter. They claimed to be righteous in spirit even while they indulge the flesh.

### 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

## Introduction

John wrote to refute the false teachings of the Gnostics.

### 1 John 1:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

# Introduction

## Argument #1.

### 1 John 1:6-7 (ESV)

[The Error] <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

[The Truth] <sup>7</sup>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 cleanses us from all sin.

# Introduction

## Argument #2.

### 1 John 1:8-9 (ESV)

[The Error] <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in  
us.

[The Truth] <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just  
to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from  
all unrighteousness.

# Introduction

## Argument #3.

### 1 John 1:10-2:2 (ESV)

[The Error] <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned,  
we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

[The Truth] <sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.



# Argument #1

“If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness...”

## Argument #2

“If we say we have no sin...”

## Argument #2 (“If we say we have no sin...”)

What is sin (*hamartia*)?

Sin means “to miss the mark.”

Sin is failing to live up to God’s standard of perfect holiness.

### Romans 3:22-23 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> ... For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

John uses *hamartia* 17 times in this epistle.

## Argument #2 (“If we say we have no sin...”)

What is sin (*hamartia*)?

Sin is a violation of God’s law.

### 1 John 3:4 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

## Argument #2 (“If we say we have no sin...”)

What is sin (*hamartia*)?

Sin is rejecting God’s way and going our own way.

### Isaiah 53:6 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

## Argument #2 (“If we say we have no sin...”)

What is sin (*hamartia*)?

Sin is failing to do what is right.

### 1 John 3:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup>But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

### James 4:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup>So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

## Argument #2 (“If we say we have no sin...”)

The problem with human nature...

- Some people presume that they are basically good.
- Some people think their good deeds offset their bad deeds.
- Some people blame others for their bad deeds.
- Some people confess some sins but not certain sins.
- Some people minimize sins.

## Argument #2 (“If we say we have no sin...”)

### 1 John 1:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

### 1 John 1:9 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The English word “confess” is a compound Greek term *homologeō* which is from “to speak” and “the same.”

*Homologeō* literally means, “to say the same thing.”

Confessing, therefore, means “saying about our sins what God says about them.”



## Argument #2 (“If we say we have no sin...”)

David is a “man after God’s own heart.”

### Psalms 51:3-4 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your judgment.

## Argument #2 (“If we say we have no sin...”)

Confession must come with a desire to forsake our sins

### Proverbs 28:13 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup>Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper,  
but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

## Argument #3

“If we say we have not sinned...”

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## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### Isaiah 5:20-21 (ESV)

<sup>20</sup>Woe to those who call evil good and good evil,  
who put darkness for light and light for darkness,  
who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

<sup>21</sup>Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes,  
and shrewd in their own sight!

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### John 1:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

### 1 John 5:20 (ESV)

<sup>20</sup>And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.



## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### 1 John 2:1a (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### Corinthians 2:5-11 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup>Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. <sup>6</sup>For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, <sup>7</sup>so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. <sup>8</sup>So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. <sup>9</sup>For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. <sup>10</sup>Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, <sup>11</sup>so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

Satan’s design (scheme):

- Before we sin, he tempts us
- After we sin, he accuses us

### Revelation 12:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup>And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.”

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### Zechariah 3:1-5 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. <sup>2</sup>And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?”

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### Zechariah 3:1-5 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup>Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. <sup>4</sup>And the angel said to those who were standing before him, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” And to him he said, “Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.” <sup>5</sup>And I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by.

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### 1 John 2:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>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.

The English word “advocate” is from the Greek word *parakletos*, that is transliterated, “paraclete.”

The word *parakletos* is a compound word from *para*, which means “to the side of” and *kaleo*, which means “to call.”

Therefore, the word can be interpreted to mean to be called to someone's side in order to accompany, console, help, protect, or defend that person.

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### 1 John 2:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>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.

Jesus the righteous (just) advocate.

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### 1 John 2:2 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

### 1 John 2:2 (NLTSE)

<sup>2</sup>He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.



### Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

The justice of God for sins demands the life of the sinner. In the old covenant, God allowed the blood of animals as a temporary substitute.

#### Leviticus 17:11 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup>For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### Hebrews 9:1-5 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. <sup>2</sup>For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. <sup>3</sup>Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, <sup>4</sup>having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron’s staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. <sup>5</sup>Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### Hebrews 9:6-7 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup>These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, <sup>7</sup>but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.

# Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

## THE TABERNACLE TENT

The entire tent was 45 feet (13.7 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high. It was a wooden skeletal structure, overlaid with gold, with no solid roof or front wall (Ex. 26:15–19). Five wooden bars (overlaid with gold) passed through rings attached to each frame (Ex. 26:26–30).

The Most Holy Place was a 15-foot (4.6-m) cube, containing only the ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:10–22; 37:1–9). It was here that Yahweh would descend to meet with his people in a cloud theophany (divine appearance). The high priest could enter only once a year, on the Day of Atonement (see note on Heb. 9:7).

The framed structure was covered by four layers of cloth and skin (Ex. 25:1–14).

The table for the bread of the Presence (Ex. 25:23–30)

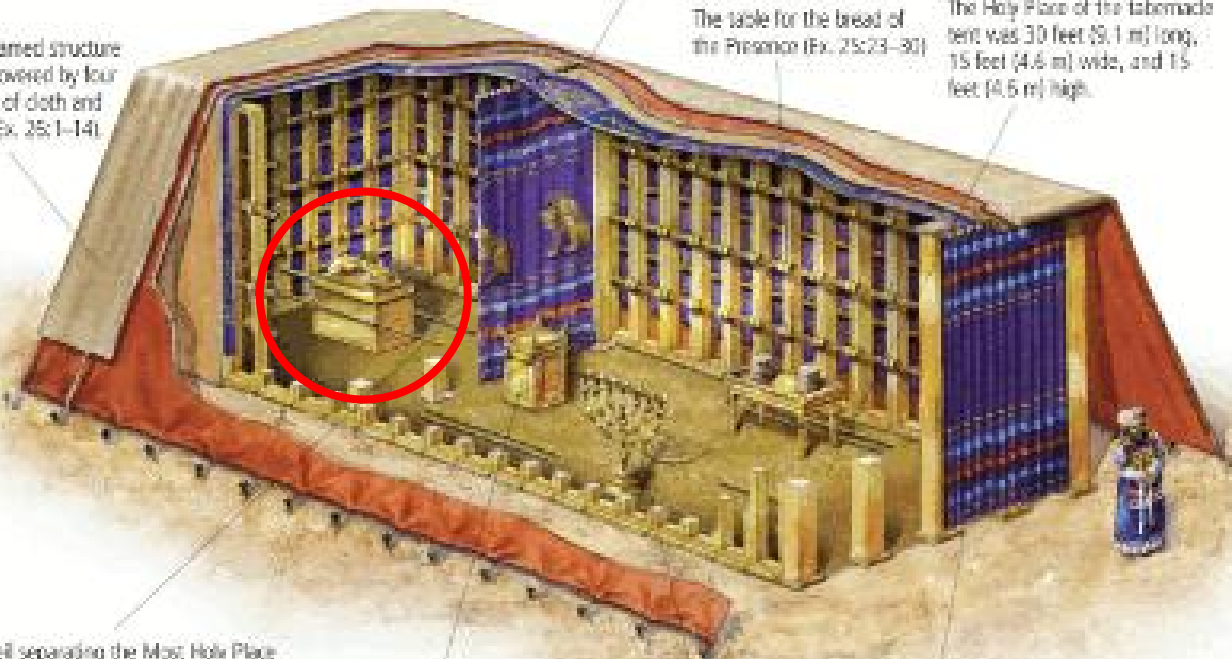
The Holy Place of the tabernacle tent was 30 feet (9.1 m) long, 15 feet (4.6 m) wide, and 15 feet (4.6 m) high.

The veil separating the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place was made from blue, purple, and scarlet dyed yarns woven with fine twisted linen and embroidered with cherubim (Ex. 26:31–33). It hung on four golden pillars.

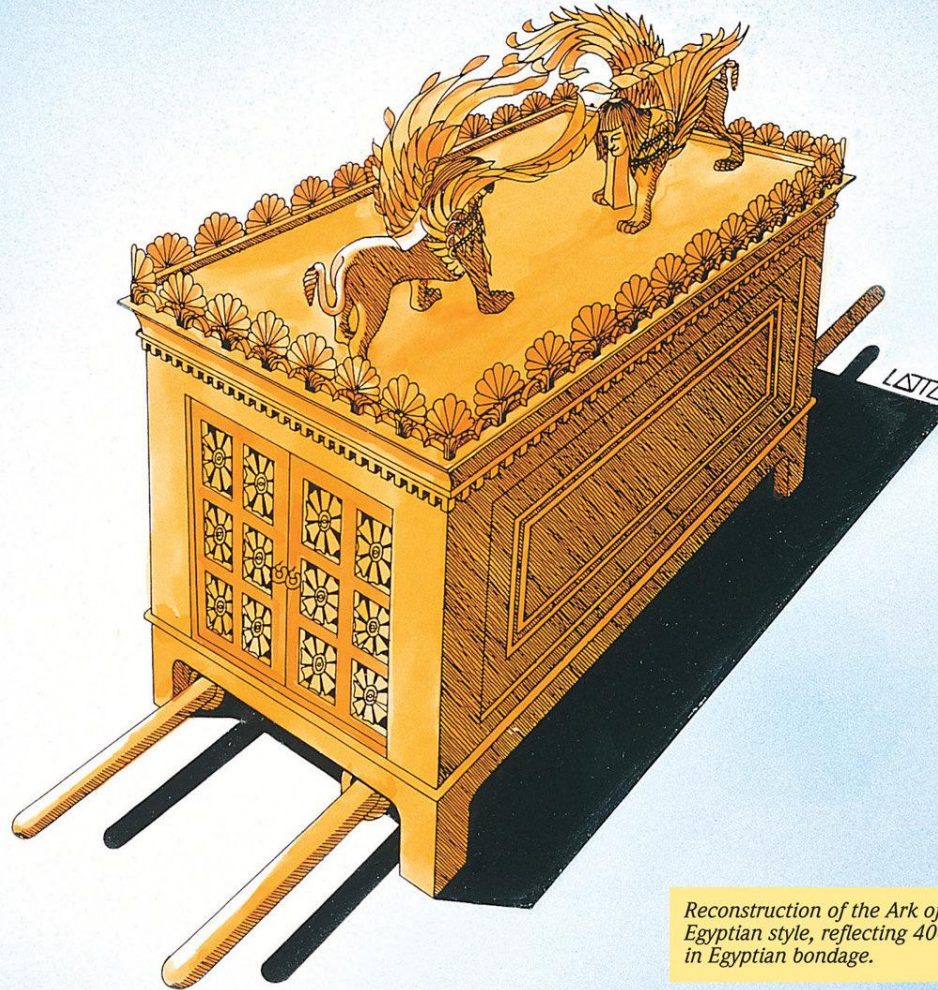
The altar of incense (Ex. 30:1–5; 37:25–29)

The golden lampstand (Ex. 25:31–40; 37:17–24)

The veil that formed the entrance to the tabernacle was similar to the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, except that cherubim were not embroidered on it. It was suspended on five golden pillars (Ex. 26:36–37).



## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)



*Reconstruction of the Ark of the Covenant drawn in the Egyptian style, reflecting 400 years of captive influence in Egyptian bondage.*

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### Hebrews 10:3-4 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup>But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. <sup>4</sup>For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### Hebrews 9:11-12 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup>But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup>he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### Hebrews 9:24-26 (ESV)

<sup>24</sup>For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf... <sup>26</sup>... But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.



## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### Hebrews 10:12-14 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup>But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup>waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. <sup>14</sup>For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### Romans 3:24-26 (ESV)

<sup>24</sup>justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a propitiation (hilastērios, which also means “mercy seat”) by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup>It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

## Argument #3 (“If we say we have not sinned...”)

### 1 John 2:1a-2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus the righteous (just) advocate is demanding justice for us.

**CONCLUSION**

## Conclusion

1. We will all sin against God

### Romans 7:19-20 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

## Conclusion

2. We will all stand before the throne of God

### Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)

<sup>27</sup>And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

## Conclusion

3. Satan will accuse us before the throne of God

### Revelation 12:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup>And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.”

## Conclusion

Is Jesus Christ your Righteous Advocate before the throne of God?

Will He intercede on your behalf?



## Conclusion

### Romans 8:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

### Romans 8:33-34 (ESV)

<sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.



# Holy Communion

# The Book of Common Prayer

## Confession of Sin

*Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

## **Matthew 26:26-29 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup>Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” <sup>27</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

**BENEDICTION**

## **Jude 24-25 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, <sup>25</sup>to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

