

'LOVE FROM ABOVE'
(Fullness of Joy through Biblical Fellowship)
Studies in 1 John

'The Advocate'

"...we (Christians) have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not ours only but also for the whole world." 1 John 2:1-2

There's a saying about lawyers that goes: *'A good lawyer knows the law, but a great lawyer knows the judge'*. Of course, if you are in really big trouble with *the law* it would best to have a lawyer who knows both the law and the judge. Only one more thing could be better; if you have attorney who knows and loves you, the accused. This would be extremely important if one is not only guilty as charged, but is being opposed by a mean and nasty prosecuting attorney committed to your total destruction.

Christians need to know that although we are to stop sinning after truly trusting Jesus as Lord and Savior we probably will fail and sin as believers. And when we do sin, it's a big relief to know that we don't lose our salvation relationship with the Lord. However, we are in jeopardy of losing our fellowship with God and brethren abiding in Him, joy, assurance, answers to prayer, our testimony, our ministry, and well-being if we don't quickly reconcile with God and any others our sin has affected (***Matthew 5:23-26, James 5:16***).

If a true disciple of Christ inadvertently sins, the Holy Spirit instantly convicts our conscience (***John 16:8-11***) that we have done wrong and He is grieved (***Ephesians 4:29-32***). A guilty conscience isn't punishment, just God's way of prompting us to quickly ***confess our sin*** to Lord Jesus (***1 John 1:9***) to maintain fellowship with God and other Spirit-filled Christians. To be stubborn and refuse to go the Lord and others we may have offended is to permit the evil prosecuting attorney, Satan, to get involved, pressing exaggerated, vicious charges against us to God (***Revelation 12:10***).

Wise believers swallow their pride and call upon Jesus to ***intercede (Romans 8:34)*** for them before the presiding Judge, God the Father. As our Advocate, Christ hears our repentant admission of guilt, prays for us before God as our Mediator (***1 Timothy 2:5***), Who is satisfied (*propitiation/ 1 John 2:1-2*) with Christ's payment (*atonement on the cross for what we've done*). When God the Father hears Christ plead our case on the basis of it having been punished on the cross, the case is closed and fellowship with Him and other obedient Christians is allowed to continue.

It sounds too good to be true! No confession booth? No penance to carry out? No priests, clergy or departed saints to pray through? That is correct! God wants your fellowship so much in this life that He included simple, humble, sincere confession through Christ alone, as a blessed part of your salvation benefits in Christ.

It is too bad that so many who confess to priests, Mary, and other deceased saints rather than directly to the one, biblical Advocate, Jesus Christ. It is sad that someday they will be so surprised that all those confessions went nowhere and their sins were retained, unforgiven (***Matthew 6:12, Hebrews 7: 25, 1 John 2:1-2***). Confession of sin to anyone other than God through Christ (***1 Timothy 2:5***) and anyone else you've wronged or hurt is a religious waste of time that not only fails to procure forgiveness, but also prevents true fellowship with God and others in Christ.

True, a good lawyer knows the law; a better lawyer knows the judge. Christians have it even better because the Judge is our Father and our Advocate before Him is His Son Who has never lost any case brought against 'the family of God'. Upon confession I'm sure Jesus' words, ***'Go and sin no more'*** apply, but it's good to know that if we do sin ***'we have an Advocate with our Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous'***.

PtL

'That Your Joy May Be Full'

(Three simple axioms for habitual Christian fellowship)

1 John 2:1-6

You Do Not Have to Sin

(...but when you do, Jesus will be your Advocate)

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." 2:1-2

You Do Have to Obey

(...and if you don't want to, you aren't saved)

"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." 2:3-4

You Are Being Perfected

(If you abide in Christ, you will experience Christ)

"But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." 2:5-6