

“Christianity’s Most Radical Declaration”

Christ’s Church of Marion County

Terry Clark

September 13, 2020

What statement in the Bible is the most upsetting to most people in America today?

“The message of the cross is **foolishness** to those who are **perishing**.

(1 Corinthians 1:18)

“We preach Christ crucified; a **stumbling block** to Jews and **foolishness** to Gentiles.” (1 Corinthians 1:23)

Christianity’s most radical declaration?

“**All have sinned.**” Found in **Romans 3:23**.

TEXT: 1 John 1:8 – 2:6 (NIV 1984)

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

Sin is **breaking** God’s **law**. (1 John 3:4)

Sin is **also failing** to do what we know to be **right** and **good**. (James 4:17)

Sin is **wanting** to do wrong, even if we don't **actually do it**. (Matthew 5:27-28)

(1) It is important to be honest with **ourselves** about our sin. (1 John 1:8)

(2) It is important to be honest with **God** about our sin. (1 John 1:9-10)

The word "confess" means to **say** the **same thing**.

The apostle Paul's confession (1 Timothy 1:13)

(3) It is important for us to be honest about God's **remedy** for our **sin**.

(1 John 2:2)

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a **new** creation; the **old** has gone, the new has come."

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

(4) It is important for us to be honest about our **relationship** with **God**.

"We know that we have come to know God if we **obey** his commands."

(1 John 2:3)

"I have **sinned** against the **Lord**. (2 Samuel 12:13)

"The **Lord** has **taken away** your **sin**. (2 Samuel 12:13)

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“He came to his senses.” (Luke 15:17)

Have you come to your senses about who you are?

Have you come to your senses about who God is?

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