



## **QA: I Confessed Before Baptism; Do I Need Baptism?** by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

**QUESTION: I confessed that God had forgiven my sins before I was baptized. Do I need to be baptized?**

**ANSWER: Nothing one confesses can be true if God has stated contrary to it.**

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. **[1] If we say** that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. **[2] If we say** that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **[3] If we say** that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. (**1 John 1:5-10**)

### **1. We're in sin, but saved.**

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (**John 8:12**)

To "walk in darkness" is contrasted with following Jesus who is "the light of the world." Therefore, one who is still practicing sin has not repented, and has not been saved to walk in the light.

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (**Romans 6:3-4**)

***The Bible teaches that no one has been saved to walk a new life until they have come out of the grave of baptism.*** Confessing otherwise is a "lie" and is not practicing God's truth.

### **2. We are not in sin.** Then Jesus died for nothing, because

You know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. (**1 John 3:5**)

If we confess that we have no sin before we're baptized into His death, John says "we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (**1 John 1:8**). The process is summed up with:

[He] Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed. (**1 Peter 2:24**)

3. **We've never sinned.** If this is true about anyone other than Jesus Christ, then God is a liar!" God has said: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (**Romans 3:23**), and,

The Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. (**Galatians 3:22**)

Jesus teaching to sinners is: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (**Mark 16:16**). Anything else is a LIE!

—- jtpll, March 17, 2024, 500th and final bulletin for Oneida Church of Christ, Oneida, TN