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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
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Q&A by John T. Polk II

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. **1 John 1:5-10:**

"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! ---jtpII

Free Article: "Christ vs Marx"

<https://johnpolkll.com/files/documents/638e30ee-63ce-4a12-9206-893999112e4c.pdf>

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.**
- ~ An ounce of fact means more than a ton of argument.**
- ~ Gossip—The halitosis of the mind.**
- ~ A juvenile delinquent is a youngster who has been given a freehand . . . but not in the proper place.**
- ~ Your attitude will determine the altitude of your achievements in life.**

The Old Versus the New System of Sacrifice

OLD SYSTEM OF SACRIFICE	NEW SYSTEM OF SACRIFICE
• Was temporary (Hebrews 8:13)	• Is permanent (Hebrews 7:21)
• Aaron first high priest (Lev. 16:32)	• Jesus only High Priest (Hebrews 4:14)
• From tribe of Levi (Hebrews 7:5)	• From tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14)
• Ministered on earth (Hebrews 8:4)	• Ministers in Heaven (Hebrews 8:1,2)
• Used blood of animals (Lev. 16:15)	• Uses blood of Christ (Hebrews 10:4-12)
• Required many sacrifices (Hebrews 10:1-3)	• Requires one sacrifice (Hebrews 9:28)
• Needed perfect animals (Lev. 22:19)	• Needs a perfect life (Hebrews 5:9)
• Required careful approach to Tabernacle (Lev. 16:2)	• Encourages confident approach to throne of God (Hebrews 4:16)
• Looked forward to new system (Hebrews 10:1)	• Sets aside old system (Hebrews 10:9)

Barnes' Bible Charts

Why you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?

Matthew 7:3



Can You Say, "Jesus Christ, My Lord"?

In Rom. 5:21, Paul states that eternal life is through "Jesus Christ our Lord." That threefold name of our Savior is an interesting progression that we must go through to truly have salvation in Him.

Jesus. Jesus was His given name. Although it means "Savior" we have to remember that it was a very common name in first-century Palestine. "Jesus" was the Greek form of the Hebrew name "Joshua." It was very popular because of the old Testament hero of that name. Most people believe that there was a man named Jesus in first-century times who was a great teacher. When she was alive, the world's most noted atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, even admitted that Jesus existed. To believe that a man named Jesus walked the earth is good, but that is not enough to save.

Christ. Christ is His title. "Christ" means "anointed one." This reveals that He is the One anointed by the Father to die for mankind. He is the promised Messiah. Jesus Christ is the One who bore our sins on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24). To believe this is to affirm what Peter did in Matt 16:16, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Many people believe that Jesus died for them, but that does not automatically make them saved (cf. Matt. 7:21). Certainly accepting Him as the Savior is an important step toward being saved, but one must still go one step further.

Lord. Lord designates Jesus as our Divine Master. Calling Jesus "Lord" means that we recognize Him as having complete control over all of our lives. It means becoming a faithful servant to Him. It means dedicating our whole lives to doing things in His name. It requires sacrifice and commitment. Many want Jesus as a Friend and Savior (Christ), but not a Lord. But that's what it takes to be saved in His name. Eternal life is in "Jesus Christ our Lord." Jesus Himself asked, "why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). By the way, this includes baptism for the remission of sins as a part of His plan of salvation (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 19:5).

So, can you really call Him "*Jesus Christ my Lord*"? You must if you are to be saved.

- Edd Sterchi