



Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

1 John 2:22-23

Who Is the Liar?

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The Liar Denies Christ

1John 2:22a (NASB)
Who is the liar but **the one who denies** that Jesus is the Christ?

- “but” means “it is none other than”
- The Greek implies a direct quotation: “denies by saying Jesus is not the Christ”
- The Christ means “The Messiah”
- “Denying” is a repudiation of Jesus as the Messiah (see Acts 3:13-15)

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The Antichrist Denies God

1John 2:23b (NASB)
This is the antichrist, **the one who denies** the Father and the Son.

- Those who deny Christ deny the Father
- To believe the Son is to believe the Father who sent Him (John 5:24)
- Some believed the Son but were afraid to confess Him (John 12:42-45)
- Antichrists have to deny the uniqueness of Christ to promote themselves

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Deniers Are Alienated From God

1John 2:23a (NASB)

Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father

- “Whoever” is lit. “all the ones”
- We cannot deny the Son and have the Father
- “Denying” can be stated as “disowns”
- See John 9:22

Confessors Have God

1John 2:23b (NASB)

the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

- “Confesses” is a present participle (confessing)
- To “have” (Greek *echo*_) the Father must include confessing Christ
- John states the truth in both negative and positive terms.
- Confessing and denying are antithetical

Implications and Applications

- Having a true doctrine of Christ IS practical
- The liar is the denier
- We can only acknowledge God by rightly confessing Christ
- Silence about Christ is failure to confess

Have A Robust Doctrine of Christ

Matthew 16:16, 17 (NASB)

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven."

- A love for true doctrine comes from God's grace
- Nothing can sanctify false doctrine
- God reveals His truth to "babes" (Matthew 11:25, 26)

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The Liar Is the Denier

John 8:53-55 (NASB)

"Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'; and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word."

- See the context, especially John 8:44
- Jesus is the "I AM" (John 8:58)

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We Must Confess Christ

Matthew 10:32, 33 (NASB)

Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

- This describes a courtroom setting.
- What might happen here through "men" is only temporal. What happens before the Father is eternal.

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Silence Is Failure to Confess

1John 4: 2, 3 (NASB)

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

- Confession is necessary for salvation (Romans 10:9)
- We cannot see spirits; they can be discerned based on the presence or absence of confession of Christ

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