

We have an Advocate

1 John 2:1

But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Asking the question “does anyone sin?” is like asking “Is the pope Catholic?” The obvious answer is a resounding “yes!” Several Bible passages to point the gravity and history of sin in our lives:

- > **The intention of man's heart is evil from his youth.** (Gen. 8:21)
- > **For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.** (Romans 7:18)
- > Luther in his Small Catechism says: “We daily sin much and deserve nothing but punishment.”

By ourselves, we are in deep trouble when comes to dealing with our many sins before God. We are worse than helpless in this situation.

BUT, BUT, all is not lost! There is perfect help available 24/7. The word “advocate” in our text refers to someone who speaks in court in behalf of a defendant.

Jesus is the mediator between God and man. As such, Jesus is our defender, our intercessor, who constantly presents evidence in God’s court of justice in favor of our pardon. That evidence is his holy precious suffering, death and resurrection. Luther; “He is righteous and unstained. He is without sin. Whatever righteousness I have, this my Comforter has, He who cries out for me to the Father: ‘Spare him, and he has been spared! Forgive him! Help him!’ The righteousness of Jesus Christ is standing on our side. For the righteousness of God in Him is ours.” (AE 30:236). Luther: “This text should be written with golden letters and should be painted in the heart. Therefore you should get understanding and say: ‘Christ, I know Thee alone as the Advocate, the Comforter, and the Mediator; and I do not doubt that Thou are such a Person for me but cling firmly to this with my heart and believe’” (AE 30:236). (TLSB)

Jesus Christ is our attorney at the highest court of justice. He is in heaven with the Father to make intercession for us. This is His ongoing business at the throne of God. He causes the Father to look, not upon our sin, but at His own perfect atonement.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for being my advocate every minute of every day. Keep me safe right on into eternity. Amen