

LIARS IN THE EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN

By Keith Greer

“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” {Revelation 21:8} Notice that liars will be among those cast into the lake of fire. In the book of 1 John, the apostle John refers to those who are **LIARS**:

Feign fellowship with God. *“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.” {1 John 1:6,7}* How does one who walks in darkness (sin), have true fellowship with God? The Scriptures tell us to *“Expose the unfruitful works of darkness.” {Ephesians 5:11}* We are to cease to walk in darkness, *“The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.” {Romans 13:12}*

Deny the guilt of sin. *“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. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.” {1 John 1:8-10}* John clearly stated that a man who says he has no sin is a liar. All men have committed sin. *{Romans 3:23}* Even if we could keep all the commandments, we would still be *“unprofitable servants, who have done our duty,” {Luke 17:10}*. Those who deny they sin are liars!

Claim to know God but do not obey Him. *“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” {1 John 2:3-6}* How can one who walks contrary to His will claim allegiance and relationship to Christ? Claiming to know God, while walking in disobedience to His will, is absolute hypocrisy. Jesus warned against such conduct. *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” {Matthew 7:21}* The one who exhibits such conduct shows himself to be a liar!

Deny Jesus is the Christ. *“Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.” {1 John 2:22}* One who denies Christ’s Deity cannot be considered truthful! Jesus said that those who deny Him will *“die in their sins,” {John 8:24}*. Even some who saw Jesus refused to accept His Deity *{Matthew 16:13-15}*. If we claim to love the Son, but believe that he was just a good man, we are liars.

Claim to love God—but hate my brother. *“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.” {1 John 4:20,21}* How can we claim to love God and hate those whom God loves? Such people are liars and are not really God’s true children.

The apostle John powerfully showed us many ways in which one could rightly be called a **LIAR**. What about us? Are we lying or living truthfully before our Father? Don't forget the verse with which we began—*"liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone!"* Sobering thought is it not? ***