



Is there a contradiction in the Bible about whether everyone sins?

Here is an alleged contradiction:

*Does every man sin?*

*(a) Yes. "There is no man who does not sin" (1 Kings 8:46; see also 2 Chronicles 6:36; Proverbs 20:9;*

*Ecclesiastes 7:20; and 1 John 1:8,10)*

*(b) No. True Christians cannot possibly sin, because they are the children of God. "Every one who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God. (1 John 5:1). "We should be called children of God; and so we are" (1 John 3: 1). "He who loves is born of God" (1 John 4:7). "No one born of God commits sin;*

*for God's nature abides in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God" (1 John 3:9). But, then again, Yes! "If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8)*

First of all, the Bible makes clear that, **"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)**. No exceptions? Why? **"When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned" (Romans 5:12 NLT)**. Every person born to two human parents since then has inherited sin. Every human sins by mistake.

Second of all, the Bible makes clear that, **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive our sins and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9 NASB)**. So what is the problem?

The problem is for anyone who **"practices sin" (1 John 3:6 NASB)**. The alleged "contradiction" noted above uses a translation which does not precisely translate some of the Greek in 1 John into English. The Greek word **ποιεῖ (poiei)**

More precise translations show the clear demarcation the Bible makes between those who sin by mistake, because they inherited sin from Adam (**Romans 5:12**), and those who **"keep on sinning"**, that is, deliberately, or willfully (**1 John 3:8 NLT**).

**"No one who is born of God practices sin" (1 John 3:9 NASB)**. The Greek word **ποιεῖ (poiei)** means "refuses to practice" sin. Each person has a choice, to sin deliberately, or to refuse to sin deliberately.

Therefore, while there are those who try hard to find contradictions in the Bible, the Bible, when examined carefully with the context considered, is shown to actually have no contradictions. How can this be?

**“All scripture is inspired by God” (2 Timothy 3:16).**

After examining the subject carefully we have found there is no contradiction about whether everyone sins