

WEEK 25: DO YOU PRACTICE SIN OR RIGHTEOUSNESS? 1 JN 3:4-10

Life of the believer will always stand apart from the darkness to the world around them.
Light will shine and be obvious in the surrounding world.

- I. **4 ¶ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.**
 - A. **practice** – poieo– intended, earnest, habitual performance→ continuous way of life
 - B. **sinning** – hamartia – to miss the mark, wander from the path of uprightness and honor
 - C. **Christian will sin** →¹ John 1:8 ¶ **If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**
 - D. **But Christian do NOT sin as a Way of life, as a PRACTICE of life**
 - E. **True Believer have a CHANGED NATURE**
 1. John 3:3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the of God.”
 2. John 3:7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, '**You must be born again.**'"
 - F. 1 Jn 3:9 No one **born of God** makes a practice of sinning,
 - G. **born of God** or **born again**→ Not just a change of mind→ change of nature
 - H. John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit
 - I. **Unbelievers are slaves to sin→ believers have been liberated**
 - J. Those that practice sin “. . . also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.”
 1. **lawlessness- ANOMIA** - “an-om-ee’-ah→ condition of without law, destitute of law, wickedness
 2. **sin is lawlessness.** → **sinning as a way of life**”, same as **destitute of the law of God**
 - K. **Contradicts being “born again”**
 1. As a believer your are to . . . Romans 6:11 So you also must **consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.** 12 **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.** 13 Do **not present your members** to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but **present yourselves to God** as those who have been **brought from death to life**, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.
 2. Christians are “Born again” = those who have been brought from death to life
 - L. **Law actually teaches the believer what sin is**
 1. Romans 7:7 ¶ . . . **Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”**

M. **Believers do not practice sin because they love RIGHTEOUSNESS**

1. Psalms 119:32 I will run in the way of your **commandments** 33 ¶ Teach me, O LORD, the way of **your statutes**; and I will keep it to the end. 34 Give me understanding, that I may **keep your law** and observe it with my whole heart. 35 ¶ Lead me in **the path of your commandments**, for I delight in it. 36 Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!
2. Psalms 119:77 Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for **your law is my delight**.
3. **John states that the reason Christians cannot live a life of abiding in sin and lawlessness is because this is COMPLETELY Contradicts God's Law**
4. Believers Love the law→**Desire to please God** as NOT TO BE ASHAMED

II. 5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

- A. **John gives another reason why believers are do NOT practice sin →. . .Living in sin Contradicts what Christ did for us.**
- B. **Christ came to take away sin→ Died to free the believer** from the slave block of sin
- C. Practice sin is in direct **contradiction to what Christ has done for you and IN you!**
- D. 2 Corinthians 5:21 **For our sake he made him to be sin** who knew no sin, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.**
- E. Believers **“become the righteousness of God”** through Jesus Christ
 1. in [Christ] there is no sin→Practicing sin contradicts what Christ has done in you!
- F. in him there is no sin – believers pursue Christlikeness → to be like Him

III. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

- A. John repeats No one who abides in Christ sins as a practice of life
- B. **This does NOT contradict what John said in 1:8**→ a “practice of life”
- C. John affirms, “one who says he is a believer and practice sin is a LIAR!”
- D. **abides in him** = seeing Him and Knowing Him
- E. **abides in him** is NOT sinning as a practice of life
- F. Mat 5:3-6: broken, mourning over sin will occur coming into the kingdom and be an ONGOING REALITY in a true believer.
 1. True believers are NOT perfect but they HUNGER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS!
- G. **Living for Christ and living for self and Satan is incompatible**

IV. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous

- A. John is warning that there are those that seek to deceive you

- B. Believers practice righteousness, one who **practices righteousness is righteous**,
 1. They mimic Christ and **he is righteous**
 - C. **1Jo 2:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.**
- V. **8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.**
- A. John is saying that if your life continually manifest sin & lawlessness, then you are deceived and you are **of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning**
 - B. Repeats again how contradictory such a doctrine would be as **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil**
 - C. **John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. do not keep->DO NOT LOVE HIM!**
 - D. Believers are counted righteous by faith in Christ and Holy Spirit lives within this one
 1. Holiness becomes a pursuit of the person's life
 2. Desire to practice righteousness because they desire to be like Him
 3. **Practice Unrighteousness contradicts what Christ came to do**
- VI. **9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.**
- A. Believers are **"born of God"**
 1. **God's seed abides in him**
 2. **seed** - "sperma" – from which a plant germinates-> source of new birth-> new life
 3. John uses a metaphor of a familiar event in the lives of the people.
 4. Bean seed planted do NOT produce Corn!
 - B. **Holy Spirit comes into the heart of the believer and REGENERATION occurs**
 1. Result is New Nature– New Heart-> work of GOD
 2. Born from above, born of God-> take on nature of God's family, have God's characteristics
 - C. **God's seed abides in him–**
 1. God guarantees the success, the person is permanently changed
 2. God's seed continually living within the believer & will sustain them to the end
 3. Not perfect but continually being transformed into the image, even the fruit, of Christ
 4. Holy Spirit is maintains & sustains believer throughout temptations and difficulties
 - D. **he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God**
 1. **not the will of the person** that will keep them from living life of sin-> It is God!

2. **He may fall into sin, but HE WILL NEVER LIVE IN IT!**
3. He is broken over sin, mourns over sin, not because of his own will power but because of the Holy Spirit, the seed of God put in him by God will NOT LET him rest until he turns from that sin. (Mat 5:3, 4)
4. Eph 2:10 For we are **His workmanship, created** in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

VII. John's Summation Statement!

- A. How do you tell a believer from an unbeliever? **DO YOU PRACTICE SIN OR RIGHTEOUSNESS??**
- B. **10** By this it is evident **who are the children of God**, and **who are the children of the devil**: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.
- C. **evident**—"phaneros" → known, obvious, plainly recognized
- D. Your life is the "litmus test" of which family you belong → distinction is black and white
- E. Either you belong to God's family and practice righteousness OR you belong to Satan's family and practice unrighteousness
- F. It is **Either Or** – no one can be both!

VIII. Discussion

- A. Why is it confusing for the lost world to believe that the church is actually God's family?
- B. If your nature is changed at regeneration, why do you still sin?
- C. What is the difference in sinning and practicing sin?
- D. Do those around you see obvious evidence that you are a Christian?
- E. How can you make sure that you are practicing righteousness?
- F.