

“God’s Attitude Toward Sin!”

1 John 1:5-10

Intro. – Anytime you choose to make a decision in the dark, you can bank some regrettable consequences are soon to follow. Let me illustrate what I mean. Back in the days before electricity, a tightfisted, penny-pinching rancher was taking his hired hand to task for carrying a lighted lantern when he went to call on his girl friend. “Why,” he exclaimed, “when I went a courtin’, I never carried one of them things. I was always in the dark.” Yes,” the hired hand replied, “and look at what you got!”

Disregarding the light of God’s Word leaves one literally in the dark. I fear this morning that most of the world are “in the dark” when it comes to living their lives. Our text makes clear that walking in God’s light – i.e. having fellowship with one another and being continually cleansed from sin by the blood of Jesus – means having a proper attitude toward sin itself.

Purpose: to learn to view sin as God views sin

Just what is your attitude toward sin? Does it reflect the attitude of the world who in general find delight in sin, or does it reflect the attitude God has for sin? To answer this question, our text and other related passages will brightly reveal God’s light. This then is God’s attitude toward sin:

I God DEFINES Sin

- to say one has no sin is self-deception. “Walking in darkness” means being guilty of sin and walking accordingly. Our text and other passages will help show how clearly God defines sin:
- A. Sin is an Act Committed
 1. John 8:34 “*Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.’*”
 2. I.e. the doing of a deed that violates God’s law and justice – disregarding or having contempt for the law of God...
 3. Jesus referred to this way of sinning in Matthew 7:23 – here He addressed those who had been active in religious service, but had *disregarded the law of God* -- “*And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you, depart from Me you who practice lawlessness.’*”
- B. Sin is an Act Done Without Faith
 1. Romans 14:23 “*...and whatever is not from faith is sin.*” – Romans 14:14 is identical to this verse.
 2. To do something we think God has forbidden (even though He may not have) is to be guilty sin!
 3. Illus. – if we believe God forbidden wearing purple socks, better not till we know He hasn’t!
- C. Sin is an Undone Act
 1. James 4:17 “*Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and doesn’t do it, to him it is sin.*” – i.e. to one who knows the right thing to do, and doesn’t do it, to him it is sin.
 2. When one fails to make God the center of their plans, they fail to do what they know is good = sin
 3. Greatest danger threatening each of us is not sins of commission... it is sin of omission!
 4. Many would-be followers of Christ wouldn’t think of getting drunk, murdering, stealing, adultery..., but, when it comes to doing God’s will!
 5. What then are we NOT doing that we ought to be doing? – Key matter to be addressed!
- D. Sin is Done in Thought
 1. Proverbs 23:7 “*For as a man thinks within himself, so he is.*” – from thoughts come actions...
 2. Jesus made clear the constant thoughts of hatred and lust were equal to murder and adultery...
 3. Some thoughts going through our minds are Satanically placed – what determines whether our thoughts become sin or not is what we do with Satan’s temptations...

This then is God’s definition for sin. His Word must constantly be read and heeded = walking in the Light!

II God WARNS of Sin

- certainly our text summarizes God’s warning of sin in the phrase “*...the truth is not in us.*”
- elsewhere in Bible we learn more of God’s attitude to sin by specific warnings He gives...

- for brevity's sake like to divide these into two major categories:

A. Warnings for this Life

1. Numbers 32:23 *...be sure your sins will find you out.*"
 - a. Illus. – Paul Harvey tells of the time a guy converted a fuel tank on his RV to a sewage tank...
 - b. be assured sin always sounds an alarm in God's ear – nothing escapes His notice!
 - c. try as man does to cover up his sins by making excuses or denying them outright... -- he may fool mankind for a time, but, God is never fooled.
 - d. Illus. – little boy brought home a terrible report card and asked his dad, "What's to blame, environment or heredity?"
2. 2 Samuel 12:14 *"However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme: the child also that is born to you shall surely die."* = sin affects all around us
 - a. talk to those who have lost loved ones because of accidents caused by drunk drivers...
 - b. talk to families split up because of unfaithfulness... churches with discord and fighting...
 - c. on and on goes the examples – don't buy the lie "I'm only hurting myself..." The sin of each individual affects all of those around them...
3. Isaiah 59:1-2 *"Behold the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God. And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."*
 - a. God cannot be in the presence of sin; nor can He abide/dwell in the life marred by sin
 - b. the results is separation and life without the presence/power/support of Christ!

B. Warnings for the Life to Come

1. Romans 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* = sin earns/demands death or eternal separation from God (power/might/mercy)
2. Speaks of the death of the soul – sin will be dealt with according to the justness of God!

God's urgent warnings reveal further His attitude toward sin!

III God's FORGIVENESS of Sin

- v 9 makes clear God is willing and able to forgive and cleanse us from sin!

A. God is So Willing

1. 2 Peter 3:9 *"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance."*
2. This willingness and desire to provide an escape was epitomized in the coming of Jesus!
3. The patience of the Lord today continues to demonstrate this willingness:
 - a. patience with sinful men...
 - b. patience with His people who struggle yet with sin...
 - c. patience with His people who don't recognize sin in their life...
4. But even the patience and willingness of the Lord will end!

B. God is So Able

1. With the coming of Christ came the means through which all of mankind could be forgiven...
2. Nothing short of the death of His Son could atone for our sins...
3. Thus, the way of forgiveness is through Christ alone...

Only through Christ is there the hope and promise of forgiveness of sins and the gift of God's Spirit!

Conclusion: A young man was called to the office of a professor at a Bible College. He was called because his behavior was not becoming of Christ. The professor talked to him for a little while and the young man started to give his defense for what he had done. Finally, the young man summed up his whole defense by simply saying, "Well, after all, I'm only human."

When he said this the professor jumped to his feet, looked at the young man and said, "Only human?! You mean made in the image of God, made a little lower than the angels and in Christ given the power to become greater than the angels? Only human?! Some day you will be called upon to judge angels. Only human?! You

have been given dominion over the earth and every living creature on the face of the earth. The greatest of all of God's creation, you are the only creature able to think the thoughts of God. You are the object of His love and the one for whom salvation sent Jesus to Calvary. What do you mean you're only human?!

Brethren, don't take sin lightly. Don't have the attitude the world has about it. Have the attitude of Christ. See and better understand:

- I His Definition of Sin
- II His Warning of Sin
- III His Forgiveness of Sin