

# Lessons From I John

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## Sin & The One Born Of God

(I Jn 3:4-10)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From I John."
  - a. Last week we studied "The Children Of God."
    - i. We noticed what we "are," "shall be," and "should be" as children of God.
    - ii. In other words the need to be pure, holy, and upright.
  - b. This week we are going to examine "sin" the counter part of purity in this weeks lessons "Sin & The One Born Of God."
3. Sin is a word that is being removed from the vocabulary of too many people today.
  - a. With all the political correctness out there today this word has been left out or replaced with phrases such as "not doing your best."
  - b. However sin is a real and ever present threat to every child of God and should therefore be taken very seriously.
    - i. This is why John writes concerning it write after writing about the need to be pure and holy in the previous three verses.
4. How, then, should the faithful child of God view sin?

### I. Sin Defined (4)

- A. How some see sin
  1. They see it as simply violating human relationships.
    - i. If the relationship can be fixed then the "sin" is resolved.
  2. Not every violation of human relationships is a sin. Some are, some are not.
    - i. I can violate a relationship by simply trying to teach one the truth about God's Word. This would not be sin in any way shape or form.
  3. Thus sin is more than violating human relationships.
- B. The literal meaning
  1. The Greek word for sin is "ἁμαρτία" or "hamartia."
    - i. "a missing of the mark" (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W. (1996). Vol. 2: Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (576). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
      - a. The idea of shooting an arrow and missing the target.
  2. Thus sin is an action or lack thereof that misses the target set forth by God.
- C. John's definition
  1. John defines it as "lawlessness" or "transgression of the law."
    - i. **I Jn 3:4** "...sin is lawlessness."<sup>1</sup>
  2. The Greek word for lawlessness is "ἀνομία" or "anomia."
    - i. "contempt and violation of law" (Thayer, J. H. (1889). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm's Wilke's Clavis Novi Testamenti. New York: Harper & Brothers.)

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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3. Thus sin is a breaking of God's law or actively doing what is forbidden.
  - i. This is often called a sin of commission.
- D. James' definition
  1. James defines sin as one who "knows the right to do but doesn't do it."
    - i. **Ja 4:17** "So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."
  2. Sin therefore is also committed when we fail to do what is good or commanded.
    - i. This is often called a sin of omission.
- E. Sin is therefore...
  1. It is missing the mark by either actively doing what is forbidden or by failing to do what is expected.
    - i. The mark in this case is the Law of Christ.
      - a. **Ga 6:2** "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."
      - b. **I Co 9:21** "To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law."

### II. The Source Of Sin (8a)

- A. Sin comes from the devil
  1. **Jn 8:44** "...When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."
    - i. From the beginning Satan has been the father or origin of sin.
    - ii. Thus Satan was the first to sin.
- B. Those that sin are "of Satan"
  1. Since the devil is the father of sin those that practice sin are his children.
    - i. **Jn 8:44** "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

### III. The Conquering Of Sin (5a, 8b)

- A. This was the reason for Christ coming here to earth
  1. **Jn 1:29** "The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"
    - i. To continue to walk in sin is to continue to undermine the purpose of the Lord's coming.
- B. Really consider the cost of accomplishing this purpose
  1. It cost Jesus His life.
    - i. **I Co 15:3** "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (NKJV)
  2. It cost Him is precious blood.
    - i. **Ac 20:28** "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood."

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3. Failing to recognize the cost will most assuredly lead us to crucify Christ all over again.
  - i. **He 6:4-6** "For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame." (NASB96)

C. Thus the excitement in holding fast to the realization that Christ did overcome Satan

### IV. The Abstaining From Sin (6-7, 9)

A. Whoever abides in Christ does not sin

1. What does it mean "does not sin?"
  - i. The phrase is in the present tense in the Greek which is a continuous action.
  - ii. John has already taught that Christians sin.
    - a. **I Jn 1:8, 10** "If **we** say **we** have no sin, **we** deceive **ourselves**, and the truth is not in **us**...10 If **we** say **we** have not sinned, **we** make him a liar, and his word is not in **us**." (emphasis mine)
  - iii. Thus John is teaching that those that abide in Christ do not continuously engage in sin ie not trying to walk in the light.
    - a. They can do this because they...
      1. They let the Words of Christ abide in them – **I Jn 2:24**
      2. Strive to walk as He walks – **I Jn 2:6**

B. Whoever has been born of God does not sin

1. Once again John uses the present tense here.
  - i. John is not suggesting one is born of God and never sins again.
  - ii. Rather that one born of God does not continuously walk in sin.
2. How is this possible?
  - i. Because the "seed" of God abides in the one born of God.
3. What is this seed?
  - i. It is the Word of God.
    - a. **Ja 1:18** "Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."
    - b. **I Pt 1:22-23** "Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God"
4. As long as we allow the "seed" to abide in us we will continually strive to walk in the light.
  - i. **I Jn 3:7**

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## CONCLUSION

1. As Christians when we are made aware of...
  - a. The definition of sin.
  - b. The source of sin.
  - c. The conquering of sin.
  - d. The abstaining from sin.
    - i. Our attitude toward sin should certainly be different than those John is having to combat in this letter.
      1. The Gnostics and persecutors of the church.
2. Question: Are abiding in Satan or Christ?
  - a. Now being made aware of the dangers of sin and knowing who overcame sin won't you chose Him who is willing to give His life for you?
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "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...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>2</sup> Mark Copeland's sermon "Sin And The Child Of God" was relied on heavily for the construction of this outline and much appreciation to him for his great thoughts and study in such.