

The First Epistle of John

(Week 30 – 1John 3:5-10 – Part 2)

I. REVIEW:

A. 1John 3:4

1. Those who are born of God resemble Jesus in the way they live their lives
2. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning oppose the commands of Christ (lawlessness)
3. At the new birth, we received:
 - a. A heart transplant
 - i. God replaced our old, heart of stone, with one of flesh, that is, a pliable, soft heart (Ezek. 36:26)
 - b. A new spirit
 - i. God placed His Spirit within us so that we may be able to walk in His ways (Ezek. 36:27)
 - c. For this reason, John said those who know God keep His commands and walk as Jesus walked (cf. 1John 2:4-6)
4. A true child of God does not make it a practice of sinning because *“everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him”* (1John 2:29 ESV).

II. SIN AND THE DISCIPLE: Part 2

A. John points out the true nature of the practice of lawlessness (sin)

1. Lawlessness is contrary to the very mission and character of Christ
 - a. 1John 3:5 (ESV), *“You know that He appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.”*
 - i. Jesus’ primary reason was to take away sin.
 1. *“...and in him there is no sin”*
 - *“In him”* = Jesus Christ
 - a. That is, Christ, the Sinless One, offered Himself like that of a lamb, without blemish or spot (cf. 1Peter 1:19)
 - b. It goes on to say in 1John 3:8b, *“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil”*
 - i. Christ came to destroy what Satan promotes in the world: Sin!
 - ii. The Greek word for “destroy” is “luo,” which means “to loose, to put off”
 1. Jesus loosed and broke sin’s power by His death and resurrection!
 - iii. For this reason, those who are born of God do not make a practice of sinning because Christ loosed the bonds of sin and freed His people!
 - iv. As 1John 3:6 (ESV) says... *“No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.”* (cf. 1John 2:4-6)
 1. The Gnostics claimed to know Him, but they lived un-regenerated lives.
 2. However, the true child of God does not continue living in lawlessness because he abides in God.

3. For this reason, John says...

- 1John 3:9, *“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.”*
- **Question: Is John saying that a true Christian never sins at all?**
 - a. No, since he said in 1John 1:8 that those who claim to be without sin are liars.
 - b. No, since he instructs the children of God to confess their sins in 1John 1:9
 - c. No, since he tells the children of God that if they sin, they have an advocate with the Father (1John 2:1)
 - d. Therefore, John is addressing sin as a way of life (that is, the continual, habitual practice of sin).
 - e. When a child of God sins, he gets convicted and His love for God drives him toward repentance.
 - f. Another understanding of this passage is that John is saying it is forbidden for a child of God to sin. Illustration: A policeman says, “You cannot make a right on red in this city” – he is not saying it is impossible to make a right on red, he is saying it is forbidden to do so. Thus 1John 2:1, which commands the Christian not to sin.
 - g. **Question: What does John mean by “God’s seed?”**
 - i. It is the incorruptible seed, called the living and abiding word of God (1Peter 1:23)
 - ii. It is the new heart and Spirit given by God to His children (cf. Ezek. 36:26-27)
 - iii. It is the new birth (1Peter 1:3)