

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

### Chapter 13- The First Line **1John 3:4-10**

#### 113. Distinguishing Between Sin and Righteousness- Part 12

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WAOY Friday/Monday 11/16-19/07

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "The Distinction between Sin and Righteousness. So, let's read **1John 3:4-10** again together:

**4** Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

**5** You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

**6** No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

**7** Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

**8** the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

**9** No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

**10** By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

Now on the last broadcast, we were going over verse 9- and I want to go over that verse again:

**No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**

Now as I taught on the last broadcast- when John says here that whoever is born of God does not practice sin- John was using the

present participle of the Greek verb, “to sin” and was actually saying that whoever is born of God does not dwell continually in sin as a normal course of his daily life.

You see, those who are lost- sin by nature. They don’t even have to think about it. And if we are going to correctly understand what John was teaching here about the distinction between Sin and Righteousness- we must get this down in our hearts.

The Bible teaches that there are only two categories of people on earth- children of God and children of the devil. And every human being on earth right now is either a child of God or a child of the devil. And you are in one of those two categories by birth. Those who are children of the devil *became* children of the devil by virtue of their natural birth into this world. They are not children of the devil based upon what they did after they were born- but upon the fact that they were born in sin and shaped in iniquity.

So, at the every moment of conception- everybody is a child of the devil, and they are lost and they have within themselves the very same rebellious nature that Adam had after he fell. And so as soon as these children are able to act on that nature and sin- 100% of them will. But these people are also conceived with the very guilt of Adam’s sin on them. So the Holy Bible teaches the insulting reality that all human beings are born lost, they are born sinful, and they are conceived in their mother’s womb- utterly separated from God and are by nature a child of hell.

Now I realize that this Truth doesn’t sit well with many people. In fact, I have been told that this Doctrine of Original Sin is evil and of the devil- but I want to remind you something about the areas of Scripture that are unpleasant to us.

Brothers and sisters, there are parts of Scripture that are easy to read and easy to understand and easy to teach. And those verses and passages thrill our hearts and uplift our souls. Those are the parts of the Bible that everybody loves and which everybody quotes.

But I want to remind all of us that the Bible also contains verses and passages that are deeply and profoundly troubling. There are parts of the Bible that cause us to stop and they make us tremble and they force us to wonder after God.

And I will say that both the easy ones and the hard ones came out of the Mouth and Mind and Heart of the same God. And we are

commanded to read and study both; and we are commanded to love and to believe and proclaim and obey both. And we are commanded not to be ashamed of any verse- not just the easy ones; and we are also commanded to love the Lord our God with all our minds as well as all our hearts.

So when we run across difficult and troubling passages like the ones that I just talked about- we must resist the temptation to throw our hands up and say, “*God wouldn’t do that!*” or “*My God doesn’t say things like that*”, or “*I don’t believe that*” because if it is in the Bible- then God *did* say it; and if it is in the Bible- then God *did* do it; and if it is in the Bible- then as His dear children- we have a duty and a responsibility to accept what God has revealed about Himself in sacred Scripture and to love it and teach it and believe it as being Truth- regardless of what we may think about it.

We must be careful not to be like the lost world so that we do not manufacture a “god” that is in *our* image and after *our* likeness- a “god” that suites us better; or a “god” that only pleases our sensibilities. But we must love and worship the God that the Bible reveals to us- in both His lovely Parts and His disturbing Parts.

We must also remember, beloved, that the lost pagan world does not believe that the Bible is true and so they have formulated their own theories about a Supreme Being and Creation and how life works and what is good and what is evil and what is acceptable and what is not acceptable based upon a fallen sense of right and wrong and not based upon the inspired Word of the living God.

So we must be careful that when we talk about things like Original Sin or the Fall of Man or Justification or Predestination or the Imputation of Righteousness or Human Free Will- that we do not formulate what we believe about these issues based upon what the lost world teaches- but we must base what we believe about these things based upon what God Himself said.

The lost world believes that fallen man is just fine. They believe that we are not born with Original Sin. The pagan philosophy of this present evil age teaches that every man is born as a clean sheet of paper and that if that person does “good” things- then that person is “good” –which is their way of saying that that person is righteous or saved. And they believe that if a person does evil things- then that person is evil or lost. So to those who do not believe that the Bible is

inspired- what a man does after he is born determines whether or not he is good or evil. So to those who are not saved- Man's free will is supreme; it is sacrosanct; it is the one area of life that cannot be impugned.

And this view of fallen humanity is the prevailing view of the majority of people on earth today. And this view has been institutionalized; it has been written down and is taught as being fact in all of our major universities; our Government is based upon this teaching and our way of life is predicated upon this view being true. This is the view that Psychologists teach and that Psychiatrists and that Sociologists teach and that most all Family Counsellors teach and that Social Workers teach. And sadly, this is the view that some Churches teach as they try as hard as they can to alter the Gospel so as to become more acceptable with the lost world.

And on some level, this incorrect view makes sense. It is pleasant to the ear; it is easy to teach and it is easy to learn. It is non-offensive; and it does not disturb anyone.

The only problem with this view is that it isn't in the Bible. God doesn't agree with this view. In fact, the Bible teaches just the opposite of this view. The Bible teaches that before anyone does any good or evil- they are born in sin. The Bible says that humans are guilty of the sin of Adam at the very moment of conception- even *before* they are born. The Bible says inside the body of every child is the very same fallen nature of Adam- and as soon as that child can manifest sin and rebellion- he will. The Bible says that we all are- by nature- the children of wrath. The Bible teaches that no man can do good- in fact, the Bible says that no man even desires to please God on his own. Look at what God said about all fallen people in **Romans 3:10-18**:

- 10** as it is written, "***THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;***  
**11** ***THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;***  
**12** ***ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.***"  
**13** ***"THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";***  
**14** ***"WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";***

**15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,  
16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,  
17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."  
18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."**

Now that's quite an indictment, isn't it? And you can say that I am just a hard man or that I just love hard sayings or that I am a moron or that I am flatfooted and slightly overweight or anything else that you want to say about me- but the fact of the matter is that I didn't write this- God did;-and so if this is what the Bible says- then it is true- and that means that everybody who teaches contrary to this is wrong.

So as the Church of the First Born- we can accept what the lost world says about their own condition and teach that- or we can accept what God says about us and teach that. But we cannot do both because the two views are diametrically opposed to one another. So which source is reliable? Which source is true? Which source does not and cannot contain any error- Man's view or God's?

And that is why it is so very disturbing for me to watch Christian parents nod their heads in Church on Sunday and agree with God's Word and then take their children to pagan worldly counsellors during the week that deny the very Word that the parents say they believe in. Why would they do that? These worldly counsellors do not have the Gospel; they deny Original Sin and they deny the Truth about why people do what they do. And that has given rise to all these syndromes and all these supposed diseases and psychological disorders and that is why so many children are on all these psychotic medications- because the counsellors who are treating them do not know and do not believe what the Bible teaches is the real problem and the real solution.

Those who are lost think that what God says in the Bible is foolishness. And that is true even if those people have degrees from prestigious universities. Some of the smartest people on earth who hold amazing positions of great respect and great renown- patently laugh at the Bible and scoff at what it says. I have no idea why anybody would seek counsel from somebody like that.

Now when the Bible uses the term, "foolishness" It isn't talking about the "Ha Ha" silly kind of foolishness. No, the Bible says that the world thinks that the things of God are so ridiculous and so patently

obnoxious and insulting to human intelligence to the degree that they deserve to be rejected by any thinking human being- *that* kind of foolishness. So this is evil and God has their number.

But to those of us who are saved- God's Word is powerful. And it is powerful- not simply because we believe it- but because it is true- even when it is troubling to hear. And God's Word is inspired and it does not contain any error and it cannot contain any error and although it is ancient- it is still fully relevant to us today and this Word is the very Word of God and the Voice of God in the earth today- and that makes this Word the supreme authority and it also means that that this Word is eternal.

And John says in this passage that there is a huge difference between lost people and saved people in that saved people do not dwell continually in sin; they do not practice sin as a normal course of their daily lives; they do not knowingly dwell continually in sin; they hate sin; and they run from it. John also said that those who are lost do dwell continually in sin and they do love their sin and they do desire to sin and they do sin as a normal course of their daily lives.

So even though saved people periodically transgress against God- their relationship with Sin is completely different than the relationship that lost people have with Sin- and the reason that this is true- John says in verse 9- is because only saved people have the seed of Christ within them.

This seed of Christ- that remains and dwells continuously in only those who are saved- doesn't make them perfectly sinless- but it does change their nature and forever shatters the prison that Sin holds over those who are lost.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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