

1 John 003 2021

5/16/21

The Truth About Sin

1 John 1:8-10, 2:1-2

I. Introduction:

A. Interview

1. Story: 22 year old young man was interviewed by a health care worker to be tested for Aids& for other venereal diseases he may have contracted due to a promiscuous lifestyle.
2. Application: Interestingly, he had no recognition of sin or acknowledgement of wrong.
3. Our Passage: In our passage this morning John deals with man's errant view of sin.
4. This errant view of sin is unfortunately found even among Christians.

II. If we say we have no sin (1 John 1:8-10)

A. Two primary ways a person denies sin.

1. – They deny they have committed sin.
 - a. Many people think of sin as something that gets the headlines such as:
 - Murder, Adultery, Child abuse, Embezzlement, or Bank robbery.
 - b. Since the person hasn't committed any of the things they consider "bad" they do not think they have sinned.
 - c. Problem: This view of sin falls short of what sin actually is.
 - d. The word for sin is *hamartia* which literally means to miss the mark.
 - e. Sin is at its core a failure to be perfect as God is perfect. (**Romans 3:23**)
2. – Not responsible
 - a. The 2nd way people deny sin is to deny responsibility by shifting personal guilt to someone or something else. Concerning sin, people deny responsibility with excuses:
 - (1) It's just the way I was raised. (2) It's just the way my culture is.
 - (3) It's just the way I am. (4) It's my social environment.
 - (5) It's my economic disadvantage. (6) It's my educational disadvantage.
 - b. It is human nature to blame someone else for our sin and wrong choices.
 - c. Problem: To deny our responsibility for our sin is to deceive ourselves. (**1 John 1:8**)
 - d. Fundamental 1st step of salvation is willingness to admit & confess our sin to God.

B. Answer for our sin (1 John 1:9)

- *Repentant heart, genuinely sorry for offending God, should accompany confession of sin.*
- *The assurance of God's forgiveness is based on two things:*
 1. – God's Faithfulness
 - a. The Bible is full of God's promises to forgive the sin of anyone who comes to Him with a repentant heart and asks for it. (**Romans 10:13**)
 - b. God is faithful and will always do what He said He will do.
 - c. When we sin and then confess, God is faithful to forgive because He said He would.
 2. – Justice
 - a. The second reason God will forgive our sin is His justice.
 - b. The Bible states that God's just judgment against sin must be paid.
 - c. The good news is the debt has been paid by Jesus on the cross of Calvary.
 - d. God accepted the sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf.

C. Calling God a liar

1. Anyone who claims they have no sin is calling God a liar. (**1 John 1:10**)

2. If we deny our inherent sin nature, our acts of sin, or our responsibility for our sin, we call God a liar.
3. All of God's dealings with man since Adam's fall in the garden have been about sin.
 - The creation of Israel, The incarnation of Jesus, The death, burial, & resurrection of Jesus, & the church and the proclamation of the gospel.
4. All was done by God to reconcile sinful man to Himself.

D. Message to the lost

1. The message to the lost is one of great opportunity.
2. We are all sinners because we fall short of God's perfect holiness.
3. If you have ever been less than perfect in any area of life you are a sinner.
4. If you have ever failed to obey God's law perfectly you are a sinner.
5. Good News: The good news is Jesus forgives sinners!
6. If you'll confess your sin to Him, admit that you're a sinner, & ask for His forgiveness, Jesus will forgive you completely past, present, and future, forever.
7. Jesus will give you eternal life & the Holy Spirit will baptize you into God's family.

III. Our Advocate (1 John 2:1-2)

A. That you may not sin

1. John wrote this letter to his children in the faith that they might not sin.
2. There's a danger for Christians who know they are saved to begin to take sin lightly.
3. It is the idea of turning God's grace into a license to sin.
4. However, opposite's true, because we're saved we should never think lightly of sin.
5. Being saved brings with it two inherent principles:
 - (1) – Obedience to God
 - a. Having personal knowledge & a relationship with God brings an obligation to obey His commands. Knowledge brings with it responsibility.
 - b. God commands us to be holy because He is holy.
 - (2) – Emulate Jesus
 - a. The Holy Spirit is continually conforming us to the image of Jesus.
 - b. Those saved should live like Jesus did which was in perfect obedience to the Father.
 - c. We'll never achieve sinless perfection in this sinful body, but it should be our goal.

B. We have an advocate.

1. When we do sin we have an Advocate with the Father. Our Advocate is Jesus.
2. Word for "Advocate" in this verse is Greek word *parakletos* meaning one who comes alongside to help us. As our Advocate, Jesus is our helper who comes to our defense.
3. When we sin Jesus is our friend in heaven's court. He declares our innocence based on His shed blood.

C. Jesus is our propitiation

1. Greek word for "propitiation" is *hilasmos* meaning to satisfy judgment against our sin.
2. Jesus paid the price for our sin on the cross thus God can forgive us and remain just.
3. Jesus is both our Advocate and the one who paid for our sin.
4. The blood of Jesus is sufficient to satisfy the wrath of the Father against all sin.

D. The truth about sin

1. It separates us from God and the penalty is eternal punishment in the lake of fire.
2. Jesus paid for our sin by His shed blood.