

EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW
1 JOHN 3:4

Introduction

This section *in 3:1-10* is an expanded emphasis of **2:29**, which speaks of the matter of doing righteousness.

WE'VE SEEN IN VS 1 HOW THAT GOD'S LOVE SHOULD BE AN INCENTIVE TO RIGHTEOUS LIVING!

We Are To Behold What Manner Of Love The Father Hath Bestowed Upon Us!

We know that it is **ONLY** by **the pure love of God** and **the pure grace of God** that we are the sons of God!

The phrase "*what manner*" is translated from a Greek adjective which expresses **both astonishment and admiration**.

We come to understand that our being a Child of God separates us in a major way from the unbelieving world!

WE'VE SEEN IN VS 2-3 HOW THAT THE SECOND COMING IS AN INCENTIVE TO RIGHTEOUS LIVING!

1. **"It doth not yet appear what we shall be."** (We only have what the LORD has chosen to reveal to us!)
2. What we do know is.... **"that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is."**

Philippians 3:20-21 "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

SO, Vs. 1 TELLS US WHAT WE ARE!
Vs. 2 TELLS US WHAT WE SHALL BE!
Vs. 3 TELLS US WHAT WE SHOULD BE!

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Vs 4-10 expands and gives us specific details of what this PURIFYING HOPE does. Simply put, IT CAUSES US TO WANT TO ABSTAIN FROM SIN!

Tonight let's begin looking at SIN AND THIS MATTER OF ABSTAINING FROM IT: We know that **SIN** is man's supreme problem!

Sin is the root cause of all the problems we experience in this world:

*Death...Disease...Natural Catastrophe...War...Corrupt Governments...
Broken and Ruined Families...Crime Of Every Sort...False Religion Of
Every Kind...Injustice...and we could go on...*

Many social scientists, educators, psychologists, and others **reject the concept of sin altogether and would disagree that it is the cause of these problems.**

What the Bible calls sin, they call MISTAKES, FAILURES, FLAWS, BAD DECISIONS, SOCIAL FLAWS, and PSYCHOLOGICAL QUIRKS, but they WHOLESALE REJECT the idea of SIN!

I. LET'S SEE THE WORDS THAT GOD USES TO DEFINE OR DESCRIBE SIN.

A. Transgression. (Vs 4)

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

1. **"a revolt"!**
2. **An overstepping of God's Law! (Vs 4)**
3. **It is one doing what God has said NOT to do! (This may be knowingly or unknowingly!)**
4. **It is also NOT DOING what God has said do! (Again, this may be knowingly or unknowingly!)**

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Transgression...

B. Iniquity.

Isaiah 53:5-6 5 *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.* 6 *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

1. **Iniquity is not just disobedience to God's law or Word, but rebellion, hostility toward God!**
2. **It signifies depravity, wickedness, or malace!**
3. **It is to do things that are inherently wrong or we might could say they are wrong by nature!**

C. Unbelief.

John 3:18 *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

1. **It is rejecting divine revelation (what God reveals as truth.)**
2. **It is disagreeing with God by rejecting what He says to be truth.**

D. Sin.

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

The simple definition of "SIN" is "missing the mark" or "coming up short of the mark"!

So, we see...

THE WORDS THAT GOD USES TO DEFINE OR DESCRIBE SIN.
(Transgression, Iniquity, Unbelief, Sin)

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II. LET'S SEE SOME BASIC TRUTHS CONCERNING SIN.

A. Sin Is Always Committed Against God First!

Sin may be directed against men in a secondary sense, but it is always committed against God. (e.g. Joseph; David)

e.g. Consider what Joseph said with regard to Potiphar's wife's pressing him to have sex with her:

Genesis 39:9 "...how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

Consider what David said about his sins of adultery and murder:

Psalms 51:4 *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*

B. Sins May Be Committed By Omission Or Commission!

1. **Omission:** A Failure To Do (Even Neglecting To Do) Something God Wants Us To Do.
Matthew 22:37 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

Exodus 20:12 *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

2. **Commission:** A Doing What God Has Prohibited!

Exodus 20:13-16 13 *Thou shalt not kill.* 14 *Thou shalt not commit adultery.* 15 *Thou shalt not steal.* 16 *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

C. Sin Can Be Either Inward Or Outward!

1. **Inward** – In our thoughts or attitudes of the heart.
2. **Outward** – In our actual committing of overt acts of sin.

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- D. Man Is Not Only A Sinner, But Sinful!**
All of unregenerate mankind are sinners by nature who are willfully sinful!

III. LETS SEE WHAT THE EFFECTS OF SIN ARE.

- A. Separation From God!**
Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.
Understand that mankind was originally created in the image of God to have fellowship with God! Adam's sin broke that fellowship!

In fact, it literally killed man spiritually so that his relationship with God was broken!

- B. Sin Brings Forth Death!**
Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

- C. Sin Brings Reproach!**
Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.
Reproach = Reproof or Judgment!

- D. Sin Brings The Judgment Of God To The Unbeliever And Sin Brings The Chastisement Of God To The Believer!**
Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

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IV. SIN BRINGS WITH IT A PRICE TAG!

- A. Sin Can Bring Fear!**
Proverbs 28:1 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.
- B. Sin Can Bring Poverty!**
(e.g. The Prodigal Son in Luke 15:13-16.)
- C. Sin Can Harden The Heart!**
Hebrews 3:7-8 7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:
- D. Sin Can Even Affect Future Generations!**
Exodus 20:5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Conclusion

So, in light of all this—**What causes the natural man, the unbeliever, to be attracted to sin and seek opportunities to practice it while the Believer is repulsed by sin and seeks to abstain from it and even flee from it?**

Well, in reality it should be **UNNATURAL** for a Believer to sin. The reason for this is the fact found in what Paul wrote in *Galatians 2:20*, **“Christ liveth in me”!**

If we are *LIVING IN CHRIST WHO LIVES IN US*, we will abstain from sin. Our problem is that we are still wrapped in this sinful flesh! And when we walk in our flesh rather than walking in the Divine Holy Spirit Who lives within, then what happens is that the works of the flesh are manifest in our lives rather than the life of Jesus Who cannot sin!

Is Christ living within you tonight? If not, come receive Him. If He is living within you, let Him live His life in you and through you!