

**EPISTLE OF 1 JOHN
EVIDENCE OF SONSHIP
1 JOHN 3:5-10**

Introduction

This section (*vs. 1-10*) is an expanded emphasis of **2:29**, which speaks of doing righteousness.

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

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

Vs 4-10 expands and gives us specific details of what this purifying hope does in our lives. Simply put, it causes us to want to abstain from sin.

Last week we looked at SIN in Vs 4 and what the Bible says of it.

Tonight let's begin looking at this matter of abstaining from SIN!

As we said last week....SIN is man's supreme problem!

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

I. UNDERSTAND THAT DELIVERANCE FROM SIN IS ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST'S FINISHED WORK! (Vs 5)

The Bible shows Christ's work to be a finished work!

The Bible is clear that our righteousness and our good works have NOTHING to do with our salvation! It is ALL of Christ!

Ephesians 2:8-10 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Romans 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

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A. The Savior's METHOD was the sacrifice of Himself!
1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

His death was a **SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH!**

(i.e. He died in our place! He died on our behalf!)

He was able to do that because, "*...in Him is no sin.*" (*Vs 5b*)

B. The Savior's MISSION was to save us from our sin!
Matthew 20:28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

1. Sin's Penalty! He Paid Our Sin Debt!

2. Sin's Power! The Power Of His Resurrection!

3. Sin's Presence! He Ascended On High!

II. UNDERSTAND THAT SALVATION'S INTENT IS MORE THAN JUST FREEING US FROM HELL AND TAKING US TO HEAVEN— IT IS ALSO HOLY LIVING. (Vs 5)

III. SO WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR BEING SONS OF GOD AND RIGHTEOUS LIVING? (Vs. 6-10)

A. There Is A Connection Between Abiding in Christ And Righteous Living. (Vs. 6)

1. Abiding in Christ is the secret of righteous living! (Vs 6a) (Cf. John 15:4-10; Romans 6:1-23)

2. Practicing sin is the proof of not abiding. (Vs. 6b)

B. Righteous Living Is A Proof Of Sonship. (Vs. 7a)

C. Doing Righteousness Is A Family Likeness. (Vs. 7b) (Family of God!)

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D. Practicing sinfulness is also the family likeness. (Vs. 8a)

(Family of Satan!)

The unsaved live in sin because they are of their father the devil! They are sinners!

E. Practicing sin is the continual mark of Satan's character. (Vs. 8b)

F. Since Christ came to destroy the works of the devil, how can the sons of God do such works? (Vs. 8c)

The Believer seeks to **not** practice sin in their life!

G. Whosoever is born of God does not practice sin. (Vs. 9)

Sin is the exception, not the rule in their life!

In 1:8 and 2:1 we find that the child of God may sin! These verses are not in conflict with vs. 9. There can only be two possible interpretations of vs. 9.

1. The spiritual man that is born again cannot sin but the fleshly man can sin. (John 3:6)

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

**2. The child of God cannot habitually sin! (Vs 4-10)
The words translated “Committeth”, “Sinneth”, “Remaineth”, “Doeth” and “Abideth” are in a grammatical form which indicates a continuing action (present tense)**

We believe that both interpretations are true. The born again nature cannot sin, but the flesh can, *John 3:6, That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

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Romans 7:14-25

While the new nature cannot sin, the old nature can.

If the new nature is nurtured and followed, then it will overcome the old nature. The new nature will not allow for habitual sin.

Romans 7:17– Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

To overcome sin, we must feed the new man (the spiritual man), with the Word of God.

We must also exercise the new man.

1 Timothy 4:7 – “...exercise thyself rather unto godliness.”

At the same time we must starve the old man, (the fleshly man), by not feeding him on the sinful things of this world.

James 1:13-15 – Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

H. How to distinguish the family of God from the family of the devil. (Vs. 10) Cf. 1 John 2:4)

The short answer is, by what they practice!

Romans 12:1 – I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.