

# So That You May Know

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

### Chapter 3- The True Test of Salvation- Part 1

#### 23. Belief in God and Belief in the Reality of Sin Part 6

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WAOY Thursday 05/10/07; WOSM Wednesday 11/02/22

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing to our verse by verse “journey” through the Epistle of **1 John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about “The Biblical View of Sin”. So, let’s open our Bibles and read **1John 1:8-10** again together.

**8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

**9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.**

Now on the last broadcast, we were going over the Apostle John’s test of true Salvation by going over his Biblical definition of sin. In order to comprehend the human condition correctly- we must have a biblical view of human problems rather than the view that the pagan world gives.

Now I want to stop right here for a moment and say something. Brothers and sisters in Christ, it is one of the most disturbing things that I have ever known to see and hear wonderful Christian people simply repeat what they have heard on television and from magazines and books about the human condition- rather than speaking and believing that which the Bible teaches.

For some reason- people who go to Church every Sunday still say things that they learned from the world. We have bought into a victim mentality about sin that sin is a disease or that sin is a disorder or that sin is an addiction and that it isn’t our fault and that we need treatment or therapy or chemicals or 12 step programs instead of the real cure for sin- which is repentance.

Brothers and sisters, sin is not a disease- it is sin. Sin is not an addiction- it is sin. Sin is not a disorder- it is sin.

Now I know that what I am going to denounce here is very popular and almost universally accepted today- but I want you to check out what I am going to say yourself. I want you to research this issue yourself to see if I am speaking the Truth. I'm going to make a statement and I want you to see if it is true or not. Okay- here it is.

The Bible does not teach about addictions or diseases when it pertains to sin. Let me put this another way. All teaching that says that sin is an addiction or that says that sin is a disease didn't come from God or the Bible. It came from the lost, unsaved, pagan world which also teaches that a whole host of other things that the Bible does not agree with.

You see, I am old enough to remember life in the United States before 1965. Before 1965- many of the sins that people commit today and engage in today were done back then. Except back then those things were called "sin" by the Church, and they were called "behavioral problems" by the lost world.

Before 1965, the American Medical Association; the American Psychological Association and all Doctors and all Hospitals and all Law Enforcement officials identified people who used drugs; and homosexuals; and pedophiles; and people who drank as losers who had a behavior problem. These medical entities taught and practiced under the assumption that people did what they did because they wanted to and the problem with these people was not medical or even psychological- but it was in the "want to".

So, these medical entities referred these people to the Church who were in business to give people the "want to".

Before 1965- the Church said that people who smoked dope or who drank whiskey or who molested children or who engaged in perversion were wicked sinners who were willingly engaged in sinful activity that was solved by preaching the Gospel to them so they understand the horror of their sinful condition and understand the Grace of God and could repent and be saved.

But for the most part- today neither the Church nor the Medical Establishment look at these acts as being sinful today- but they call them diseases or addictions and they don't say that pedophiles or mass murders are demon possessed wicked sinners- both the Church and the

world calls these people “sick”.

Well, what happened in 1965 to change this? In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson instituted his so- called “Great Society” programs. Among other things these programs brought forth Medicare and Medicaid- which are the two most expensive Government programs in the history of the world. And with the creation of the welfare state- these programs attacked the dignity of human beings and the family structure like nothing else before it.

But President Johnson’s Great Society did more than create the American Welfare State- his programs also changed the definition of “sin” to “disease” almost overnight.

How did an American President do that? Immediately after the Great Society Programs of the mid 1960’s were instituted- Doctors and Hospitals all across America began to “treat” alcohol and drugs and perversion and murder as “sicknesses” and they began to treat those who were engaged in these evil acts-not as evil people- but people who were “sick”. Almost overnight so-called “Rehabilitation Centers” and “Recovery Programs” spread all across our land.

What caused this radical change? Was there some new scientific breakthrough which found a germ that caused people to use drugs? No. Was there research conducted that proved that people were born perverted and were just normally carrying out their genetic makeup by molesting children? Nope. Was there any proof at all that anything changed about drugs or alcohol or perversion or murder that caused the Medical and the Law Enforcement facilities to adopt this new strategy? I wish there was- but the answer is no.

Well, what happened that people who for thousands of years taught that sin was sin but now they called it a “disease”? Money. Pure and simple- just plain old fashioned money. The only thing that happened to the medical community that changed the way they treated alcohol or drug problems was the fact that in 1965 for the first time in human history the Government began to pay Doctors to treat these problems- so in order to be paid all of a sudden- these sinful activities that everyone knew could only be handled through the Blood of Jesus became “diseases” that required “therapy” and “12 step programs” and medicine and a ton of money to fix.

The truth is that less than 17% of everyone who has ever been in a rehab facility stops taking drugs or gets off alcohol for more than six

months. By anyone's calculations, this 42 year old social experiment that has cost billions and billions of dollars has been an unmitigated disaster for everyone involved.

After treating people who use alcohol and drugs as "victims" now for 42 years in this country- we have more people on drugs; more people who are drunk; more deaths caused by drinking and taking drugs than we did before 1965.

And today, our rehab centers and our jails and our morgues are filled with millions of tragic and wasted human beings who have bought into the lie that sin can be overcome through human reasoning; therapy; programs and medicine.

According to Focus on the Family- because of spineless parents; an emasculated Church; and pagan Government leaders- many of those children born in America- who manage to escape the abortionist's knife and are actually born- will be molested by Mom's shack up boyfriend; and those who manage to escape being abused have a greater chance to contract a venereal disease before they are 20 years old than any generation in the history of the world. All because we stopped calling sin- sin and called it a "disease".

If you would like more information about this issue- there are three books that I highly recommend. The first is called, *The Useful Lie- How the Recovery Industry Has Entrapped America in a Disease Model of Addiction*.<sup>1</sup> This book was written by Dr. William Payfair. The second book is entitled, *Deceptive Diagnosis- When Sin is Called Sickness*.<sup>2</sup> This book was co-authored by Dr. David Tyler and Dr. Kurt Grady. Now both of these books were written recently and come from the Biblical perspective.

But interestingly enough- the third book that I recommend to you about this issue, comes from a man who does not even believe in God. This book was written in 1973- just eight years after this radical change took place. This book is entitled, *Whatever Became of Sin*<sup>3</sup> by Dr. Karl Menninger, who was a clinical psychologist who wrote this book to denounce his own profession of Psychology for lying to people and telling them that they were "sick" and not sinful in order to be paid.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. William Payfair, *The Useful Lie- How the Recovery Industry Has Entrapped America in a Disease Model of Addiction* (1991, Timeless Texts, Stanley NC) ISBN 1-889032-37-9

<sup>2</sup> David Tyler and Kurt Grady, *Deceptive Diagnosis- When Sin is called Sickness* (2006 Focus Publishing, Bemidji, MN) ISBN 1-885904-58-4

<sup>3</sup> Karl Menninger, MD, *Whatever Became of Sin?* (1973 Hawthorn Books, New York, NY) ISBN 0-8015-8554-6

But let's go to an even higher Source than doctors about the issue of the origin of sin. Look what the Lord Jesus said about the origin of sin in **Mark 7:20-23**:

**20** And He was saying, "**That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man.**

**21** "**For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,**

**22** **deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.**

**23** "**All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.**"

Jesus says here that what comes out of a person- that which is already inside the human being and comes out of him- that is what Jesus said defiles us. So, Jesus is saying here that sin is already in us- it is resident inside us. In fact, sin was imputed to us at the very moment of conception and every single human being on earth is born into sin.

Yet for some strange reason- many today in the modern Church are reluctant to give the same diagnosis about sin that Jesus made for fear of offending someone or out of the fear of being labeled "unloving". So as a result of this fear and rejection of Truth- we describe sin in culturally accepted terms which doom the individual to never getting free. What is so loving about that?

But it isn't just our own generation which has trouble calling sin- sin. The people who lived in Judah during the prophet Malachi's day were good at disguising their sin too. God had given these people clear instructions about what kind of sacrifices were acceptable to Him- yet they continued to offer defiled animals in their sacrifices. You can read about this in **Malachi 1:6-8**.

So, God warned this rebellious people to repent in **Malachi 2:1-4**. This rebuke was necessary because the children of Israel continued to rebel and then acted as though all was well. This problem got so bad, and their deception became so pronounced that in **Malachi 2:17**- the people who were willfully sinning against God had the audacity to accuse God of not being fair with them!

**You have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet you say, "How have we**

**wearied *Him*?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them," or, "Where is the God of justice?"**

In John's day, the city of Ephesus was bombarded with sin loving false teachers who said that the real problem with people was that Gods' ways were too strict and that if the priest's would just "loosen up" and let their hair down- and forget about all this nonsense about holiness- then the people's lives would be so much better off.

In John's day, the Gnostics began to teach the people that since Christ's "divine spirit" had descended at His baptism but had departed right before His Crucifixion- that this proved that those things done in the flesh really didn't matter. This false teaching had the net affect that sins committed in the body were irrelevant and a nothing to be concerned about.

So, John confronted this false teaching with Sound and inspired Truth about sin; the nature of sin; and the affect that sin has on the believer by writing verses 8-10 of chapter 1 of **1 John**:

**8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

**9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.**

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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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.