

Study #7

1John 3:4 -10

John's purpose statement:

1 John 5:13: *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*

Observation questions:

Key Idea #1 : Sin is Incompatible with the Law of God- 1John 3: 4

*** Read these verses:**

(Key verse)1John 4: *Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.*

Romans 8:7 - 7 *For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.*

John 3: 20 *For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.*

2nd Cor. 4:4 4 *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

Eph. 4:4 18 *They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.*

Circle the phrases that talk about "sin or lawlessness" and list below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

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Key Idea #2 -Sin is Incompatible with The Work of Christ

1John 3:5-8

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 keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

***Why did Jesus appear? Why was He able to perform this work?**

***Who, or what deceives us?**

***Since Christians do sin, what is verse 6 saying?**

***In verse 5 above, it says “ 5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin.”**

What does verse 8 say about why He appeared? Why do you think it is different from verse 5?

Key Idea #3 - Sin is Incompatible with the Ministry of the Holy Spirit

1John 3:9-10

9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

***According to verse 9, why can't a born again believer make a practice of sinning?**

* John uses the phrase “for God’s seed abides in him”. What do you think he means by this?

* What does it look like to be a child of God? (look up Galatians 5:22-24)

* How is it evident that someone is a child of the devil?

Key Idea #4: The Moral Test of Love

1 John 3:10

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

Once again, John affirms that believers are to demonstrate brotherly love.

Look back at this verse in John.

John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

* What was His new commandment?

*What are the 2 reasons we are called to love one another?

Notes:

Key Idea #1 Sin is Incompatible with the Law of God- 1John 3: 4

Key Idea #2 -Sin is Incompatible with The Work of Christ

Key Idea #3 - Sin is Incompatible with the Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Key Idea #4: The Moral Test of Love

Discussion Questions:

What part of this passage spoke to you today? Why?

How could others influence you to sin? Do you ever try to justify that committing a certain sin is acceptable to yourself or others?

How does knowing God loves you, and that you belong to Him, motivate you to live a holy life? What would that look like?

Next week: 1 John 3:11-22

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Food for Thought:

Each of us must answer honestly before God:

1. Do I have the divine nature within me, or am I merely pretending to be a Christian?
2. Do I cultivate this divine nature by daily Bible reading and prayer?
3. Has any unconfessed sin defiled my inner man? Am I willing to confess and forsake it?
4. Do I allow my old nature to control my thoughts and desires, or does the divine nature rule me?
5. When temptation comes, do I “play with it,” or do I flee from it? Do I immediately yield to the divine nature within me?

The life that is real is honest with God about these vital issues.

Wiersbe, Warren W.. Be Real (1 John): Turning from Hypocrisy to Truth (The BE Series Commentary) (pp. 118-119).
David C Cook. Kindle Edition.