

Living in the Light

A STUDY IN 1ST JOHN

Pastor Joseph Zwanziger Living in the Light Part 6—The Remedy for Sin 5.23.2021

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Romans 3:23, NIV]

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

[1 John 5:13, ESV]

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

[1 John 3:1–10, ESV]

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

⁵You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

⁸Whoever 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.

⁹No 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.

¹⁰By 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.

As we are following Him, we are becoming more conformed to His image.

[1 John 3:8-9, ESV]

⁸Whoever 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.

⁹No 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.

"The Greek present tense may indicate that the conduct of true Christians is not predominantly sinful. Or John may mean that Christians cannot sin as Christians. When they do sin, they temporarily deny their Christian identity. Not that they cease to be Christians, but they cease to act like the Christians they are." – Robert Gundry ("A Survey of the New Testament")

True followers of Jesus **don't PRACTICE sin**, don't **FOCUS on HOW to sin**, don't **chart a course FOR sin**, but instead focus, practice, and **make it their life's aim to walk down the path of God's ways**, God's laws, also known as "righteousness"

If you're a believer and you're okay with a pattern of sin, you have to question whether you are truly living for God.

If we don't understand what sin is or its affect on our lives, then we won't address it properly.

The toxicity of sin is affecting you, whether you know it or not.

What is sin?

1) Breaking God's law/will

1 John 3:4 (ESV)

"Sin is lawlessness"

2) Unrighteousness

1 John 5:17 (NKJV)

"All unrighteousness is sin"

3) Not doing good

James 4:17 (NIV)

"If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them."

4) Unbelief

Romans 14:23 (NKJV)

“For whatever is not from faith is sin.”

What are the effects of sin?

1) Sin separates us from God

Isaiah 59:2a (NIV)

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God”

2) Sin disqualifies us from a revelation of God!

Isaiah 59:2b (NIV)

“...your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”

3) Sin leads to death

James 1:14–15 (ESV)

¹⁴But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

Romans 5:12 (NIV)

“Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.”

[1 John 3:5, 8, ESV]

“You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

⁸Whoever 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.”

The enemy doesn't want you to know that the children of God who walk in the path of righteousness THRIVE and are instruments God will use to extend His Kingdom on the earth!

Living for God is like going to Disneyland, and through sin, the Devil wants you to have no fun.

[2 Corinthians 5:21, NIV]

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

[John 1:29, NIV]

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

[1 John 1:7, NIV]

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

***God deals with the sinner in love; He deals with sin in wrath.
He hates anything that separates us from Him.***

[Romans 3:23–25, NIV]

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵**God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood.**

[Revelation 1:5, NIV]

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. **To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.**

[1 John 2:1–2, NIV]

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

²**He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,** and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

The work of the Devil was defeated on the cross, and is STILL being defeated because of the blood of Jesus!

→ Specific problems get specific treatment!

[1 John 1:9, 7, NIV]

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

“⁷the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Specific problems get specific treatments. When we call our sin anything other than what it is, there is no other remedy that we can apply to it.

- When you bring your “issues”, He loves you and cares for you**
- But when you bring Him your “sin”, He stands poised and ready to cleanse You with the blood of Jesus, by the Holy Spirit.**

[Isaiah 1:18, NLT]

“Come now, let’s settle this,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.”

FOR MONDAY—

1. Pray and ask God for the strength to overcome sin and a righteous anger for sin.
2. Bring Him your sin everyday, embrace it and rejoice that His blood is available to you.
3. Invite God to speak to you, bringing conviction, direction, and vision.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. How is our behavior different when we personally know something versus secondhand information? Where have you seen this around you?
2. Why is it easier to break rules over relationships?
3. When have you witnessed someone downplaying the severity of a situation by using more generalized or softened terms? Why can it be difficult to specifically admit guilt?
4. Why do you think John uses the phrase “children of...” often in 1 John 3? What does he mean by this repetition?
5. Do “true believers” not sin at all? What is the role of true believers in Jesus? Why should we self-examine our level of tolerance to sin? (Consider the Gundry quote)
6. Which of the definitions of sin or the effects of sin brought more revelation to you when you heard it in this message?
7. How can sin prevent the “abundant life” promised by Jesus? What does abundance look like for believers living in the light?
8. In your experience why do specific problems get specific treatments? How does calling sin by name to the Great Physician bring healing?
9. How does the new covenant in Christ’s blood purify us from ALL sin? Why is this so key to atonement (or “at-ONE-ment”)?
10. Where has the Cross taken you in life? Where would you probably be without it?