

1 John 3:4-6 ⁴ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. ⁵ And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. ⁶ Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

I. Introduction

A. Themes of 1 John

1. Theme of fellowship in chapters 1-2
2. Theme of children of God in chapters 3-5

B. Doctrinal positions of being children of God

II. Declaration of Sin (verse 4)

A. Transgression of the law

1. Greek word for sin: "hamartia" meaning missing the mark or bullseye
2. Sin is missing the mark of living up to God's moral law
Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
3. Sinners commit lawlessness or living without God's law
4. God's law summarized in the Ten Commandments
5. Each person needs to understand that they are sinners
6. God's law teaches that every person is a sinner

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

7. In time past, Christians used to walk in the power of sin

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

B. Penalty for sin

1. Sin brought death into the world

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:

2. Ultimate penalty of sin is death

Revelation 20:14-15 ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

III. Manifestation of Christ (verse 5)

A. He came in person

1. Sin is the reason for the Redeemer to come
2. Jesus came to take away sins
3. God revealed His love for people by sending His Son

1 John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

4. God made Jesus to be human Redeemer, person who took the place of punishment for sins

B. He came without sin

1. God made Jesus to be sin in place of sinners

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2. God's Redeemer for people

Romans 5:8-10 ⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. ¹⁰ For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

3. Only one person (Jesus) can take away a person's sins

IV. Walk of the Christian (verse 6)

A. Position of Christian

1. Christian has been declared righteous in God's eyes
2. Christians called saints in Bible
3. But human pedigree still has sin nature ("old man")
4. Some talk of teaching of "sinless perfection" (without sin in human life)
5. Bible verses incorrectly applied in teaching of "sinless perfection"
6. Paul admitted that he had not arrived ("attained") or was perfect

Philippians 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

7. Only one person was ever perfect (sinless) – Jesus of Nazareth

B. Abiding relationship with Christ

1. Jesus' presence in life of Christian

- a. Abiding means to stay in Christ & have fellowship with Him
- b. Christian can have confidence at Jesus coming

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

- c. God promises abundant life

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

- d. God wants Christian to bear much spiritual fruit

Galatians 5:22-23²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

- e. Christian reflects' Jesus presence in their life

2. Abiding Christian does not practice sinful lifestyle

- a. God does not give "cheap grace" that goes on sinning

Romans 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

- b. God enforces parental discipline on His children

Hebrews 12:5-6⁵ And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: ⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

- c. Every Christian can stumble

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

- d. Christian does not stay in cesspool of a pig pen

C. Solemn reality

1. Sinful person

- a. Person who lives in sinful lifestyle
 - i. Does not see Jesus
 - ii. Does not know Jesus

- b. Sin is product of choice or ignorance against God

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 ³ *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*
⁴ *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

- c. Any person can have book knowledge about Jesus, but without faith there is no profit in it

Hebrews 4:2 *For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.*

2. Christian

- a. Christian has faith in God & Holy Spirit teaches Christian

1 Corinthians 2:12 *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

- b. Walking in Holy Spirit keeps Christian away from sinful decisions & choices

Galatians 5:16 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

V. Conclusion

- A. Christian faith is the victory to overcome sinful lifestyles

1 John 5:4 *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*