

Discussion & Application:

1. People in our culture are working overtime to convince us that what the Bible calls sin isn't really sin. They are giving us excuses, rationalizations, and justifications for sin. How has defining sin as "**lawlessness**" (willful rebellion & insubordination against God and His laws) helped you stop the rationalizations, say no to sin, and/or recognize, repent of, and confess sin this past week?
2. Why did God give us **laws**? (See Dt. 10:12-13; Joshua 1:6-9; Ps. 1; 19; 119; Rom. 7:12, 16; 1 Tim. 1:5-8) What does Satan want us to believe about God and His laws?
3. 1 John 3:7-8 commands us not to be **deceived**. In 1 John 2:26 the warning was against **doctrinal** deception. In 1 John 3:7-8 it is **moral** deception. Discuss some specific examples of moral deception in recent years (especially ones accepted by many denominations and professing "Christians"). What specific deception is John talking about in this passage? How does this relate to the idea that people can have Jesus as Savior but not as Lord?
4. Is John saying that practicing righteousness is what makes us righteous (works-based righteousness)? If not, what is he saying in this passage? (See also Mt. 7:15-20)
5. What does the name "**devil**" mean? What other names are attributed to him in Scripture? List as many of the "**works of the devil**" as you can find in the Bible. What is the advantage of knowing what he does and how he does it? (See Eph. 4:14-16; 6:11; 2 Cor. 2:10-11)
6. What does the word "**destroy**" mean? In what sense did Jesus destroy the works of the devil in his first coming? If He destroyed them, why do we still have so many sin issues in the world? What has Jesus provided for true believers so they can resist and overcome the works of the devil?
7. What does John mean in verse 9 that a true Christians "**cannot sin, because he is born of God**"? How do we know that does not mean that true Christians will be sinless in this life?
8. What is "**His seed**" in verse 9? How does His seed keep us from practicing sin?
9. Recent surveys consistently reveal that there is very little moral difference between Christians and non-Christians in America. Is it "**obvious**" that you are a child of God? Does your practice of moral righteousness clearly mark you out as someone who is born of Him? In your thought life? Viewing and listening habits (entertainment; computer or smart phone when alone)? Speech (topics, words, tone, body language)? Attitudes and emotions (especially under stress)? Consistency (same behavior at church as at home, school, work, driving...)? Sexuality? Materialism?
10. John is not talking about moral perfection, but **direction**. Looking back over the past 3 to 5 years of your life, can you see specific areas of growth in moral purity? Are there any specific areas that you need to correct and grow (by God's grace) so it is even more obvious that you are a child of God?
11. If you have not yet turned from sin and put your trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, please do that right now. Admit that you are a guilty sinner. Thank Jesus for paying for your sins on the cross and rising from the dead to prove the payment was accepted. Confess publicly that Jesus is your Lord and Savior. Get baptized and join a local church where you can grow and serve. If you have questions, please speak to a church leader or call the church office (818-776-1500). We would love to help.
12. **Memorize 1 John 3:7-10**. Meditate on the reality that as a follower of Jesus, victory over sin is available to you moment-by-moment. Thank Jesus for defeating Satan and destroying his works. Put the gospel of Jesus on display in your lifestyle of righteous living.