



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: 1 John 3:3-10

Check with each other how you are doing.

Read 1 John 3:3-10

3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. 4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 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. 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. (ESV)

Sermon Summary:

Bible translations vary on how they translate the action of sinning. This is because the Greek does not make it absolutely clear. For example, in Greek, 1 John 3:6 reads *Everyone who remains in him does not sin*. This produces a tension with 1 John 1:8-9 which reads: *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us*. Many translations overcome this tension by translating "does not sin" to "does not make a practice of sinning."

John seems to make a distinction between making a practice of sinning and not making a practice of sinning. This distinction then indicates who is a child of God or a child of the devil. John also indicates

that those born of God have His seed. This “seed” is what distinguishes children of God from children of the devil and determines how they live. We are blessed to be born of God through our belief in Jesus Christ as well as having the His “seed” to cause us to live a life of righteousness.

Discussion:

1. John makes strong statements about those who keep on sinning and those who do not. What are all the verses which draw this comparison.
2. John is not afraid of calling people “children of the devil.” Why is he so strong? Should we do the same? If so, how can we determine if a person is the child of the devil? Why should we be careful about calling people “children of the devil?”
3. What are the differences between children of God and children of the devil? If both sin, what is the difference?
4. Read and discuss verse 9. What is “God’s seed?” What does it mean for God’s seed to abide in us?
5. John gives two reasons for the Son of God to appear. What are they? Why are these two reasons so important? How should it affect us?
6. How should we take care of sin, if and when we sin?

End with Prayer