

DIFFICULT PASSAGES: CANNOT SIN 1 JOHN 3:9.

3/5/2023 AM

INTRO.:

A. Read text: **1 John 3:3-9.**

B. Regarding the text:

1. This passage has been used to teach “the impossibility of apostasy.”
 - 1) This is just another term for “once saved always saved” doctrine.
 - 2) This is becoming popular even in the Lord’s church.
2. It has a comforting ring to it, BUT it is false.

I. WHOEVER “ABIDES IN HIM” DOES NOT SIN... (6).

A. The phrase “does not sin” is present tense in the Greek, suggesting a practice of not sinning.

1. John has already affirmed that Christians sin (**John 1:8, 10**).
 - 1) To say we have no sin is to lie, and to make God a liar.
 - 2) John is talking about one who does not “keep on sinning.”
 - a. He will remove sin through repentance.
 - b. This man uses the “second law of pardon.”
2. Paul revealed this truth: (**Rom. 3:23; 5:12**).

B. This is true of those who “abide in Him.”

1. Those who “abide in Jesus” do not continuously engage in sin.
2. That is because they...
 - 1) Let that which they have heard from the beginning abide in them (the words of Jesus - **1 John 2:24**).
 - 2) Strive to walk even as Jesus walked **1 John 2:6**.
3. The one who continuously practices sin has not seen Jesus nor known him. Despite any claims to the contrary (**1 John 3:6**)!

II. THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BORN OF GOD “CANNOT SIN...” (9).

A. John uses the present tense when he says “cannot sin.”

1. He is not suggesting that one “born of God” never sins.
2. But that one truly “born of God” does not allow sin to remain in his life.
3. The faithful child of God studies the Bible, applies those truths to his life, and endeavors to do right, he will not live in sin.
 - 1) A Christian will occasionally commit some act of sin, but sin is not characteristic of his life.
 - 2) When these things do occur, the Christian will ask for God’s pardon (**Acts 8:22; 17:30**).

B. And why is that?

1. Because “His seed remains in Him.”
 - 1) The seed is the Word of God (**James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:22-23**).
 - 2) As long as one allows the “seed” (the Word of God) to remain in him, he is not going to allow sin to separate him from God (**Isaiah 59:1-2**).
 - 3) As such he does not continuously practice sin.
 - 4) He will not continuously practice sin, if the “seed” is remaining in him.
2. God’s word should stir our conscience when we err from the truth.

C. God’s word can keep us on the right path (**Psalms 119:11; 105**).

D. Instead, he continuously practices righteousness (**1 John 3:7**).

III. CONCLUSION.

A. John is dealing with the false idea that one can claim to be “born of God” and not be concerned about sin in their life.

B. We must understand:

1. The “definition” of sin” (**1 John 3:4**).
2. The “origin” of sin” (Satan: **1 John 3:8**; Adam and Eve: **Genesis 3**).
3. The “defeat” of sin” (**1 Corinthians 15:55-58**).

C. What is your attitude toward sin?

1. Have you been born again through obedience to the Word of God (the incorruptible seed)?
2. Are you letting that “seed” remain in you to keep sin away (**Psalms 119:11; Matthew 4:1-11**)?