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Youth E.D.G.E. Sunday School

Back to the Basics: A Study of I John - Part IX

Why Should We Stop Sinning?

I John 3:4-10

I. You should stop sinning, because it makes you the enemy of God (v. 4).

Sometimes when we look at our sin, it just doesn't really seem that bad to us. John's point here is that there is no such thing as a "minor" sin. Sin is active rebellion outside of God's law. It makes you into God's enemy.

II. You should stop sinning, because it defeats the purpose of the incarnation (vv. 5-8).

Your sin defeats the purpose of the incarnation. It destroys the very reason that God sent His Son into the world.

A. Jesus came to kill your sin, so stop bringing it to life (v. 5)!

Jesus appeared in order to take away sin. He came to demolish it. That was His purpose. Why would you act against that?

B. Jesus came to have a relationship with you, so stop breaking that off (v. 6)!

The child of God who has a relationship with Christ has experienced a decisive break from the control of sin. You cannot abide in Christ and be a habitual sinner.

C. Jesus came to make you righteous, so stop being unrighteous (v. 7)!

Jesus came to have a relationship with you and to change your identity. The only ones who can have full assurance of their salvation are those who make a practice of acting righteously. Your righteousness does not save you. It confirms the active presence of Jesus' righteousness.

D. Jesus came to defeat the Devil, so stop helping him try to win (v. 8)!

Here is another purpose statement. Jesus came in order to defeat the Devil. Jesus defeated everything the Devil has done or will do on the cross!

III. You should stop sinning, because you have been born of God (v. 9).

"No one born of God makes a practice of sinning." Can John back that audacious assertion up? He sure can...

A. Being born of God means that you possess His nature.

God has implanted His seed in you. Persistence in sin is no longer even an option.

B. Being born of God means that you cannot keep sinning.

The new birth is deep, radical, and abiding. It renders continuance in sin utterly impossible.