



By This We Know...

A Study of John's First Epistle | 1 John 3:4-10

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Unable To Sin

The Main Point: Children of God live righteously; children of the devil, do not.

- "Everyone who does sin also/indeed does lawlessness; and (the) sin is (the) lawlessness" (v. 4)
 - The contextually defined scope of "sin" in this passage is sinful action **stemming from lawlessness**, understood as an internal attitude of rebellion and opposition to God's authority that leads to judgment.
 - Conceptual/Linguistic parallel: "Whoever lies also practices corruption; lying is corruption."

2

Unable To Sin

- ▶ He who took away sins (vs. 5)
 - ▶ “Everyone who abides in him does not sin; everyone who sins has neither seen him or known him” (v. 6)
- ▶ Whose righteousness is it anyways? (vs. 7)
- ▶ “whoever does sin” is of the devil (vs. 8)
 - Destroying the work of the devil
- ▶ “everyone born of God does not do sin... they are not able to sin” (vs. 9)
- ▶ Decisive paternity test

3

John’s Dualism Teased Out

- ▶ **Children of the Devil** → lawless hearts *like* their Father → practice deceit and falsehood = “doing sin” on account of rebellion that is stubborn and enduring.
- ▶ **Children of God** → new hearts *from* their Father → practice righteousness and the truth = sinning on account of weakness that is confessed and forgiven.

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