

Theme: If we deny our sin, we are deceived, but if we confess our sin, we are forgiven and cleansed.

I. A Boy, A Lawnmower, and A Hose

- A. One of my first times cutting the grass
- B. Told to clear all objects from yard first
- C. Ran over hose - cut to pieces
- D. "Someone threw it in front of the mower"
- E. How do we handle sin?

II. Key Theme: The Light

- A. A key theme in this section: light
This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is **light**; in him there is **no darkness at all**... ⁷ But if we walk in the **light**, as he is in the **light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:5, 7
 1. This is the summary John gives of Jesus' message
This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5
 2. Jesus did teach this in some key passages
This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." John 3:19–21
 3. A key theme in John's writings: 33 of 73 NT uses

B. The meaning of "light"

1. Can refer to natural physical light
2. But usually used metaphorically to refer to:
 - a. The light of revelation
 - b. The light of moral purity - its meaning here
3. John says God is morally pure - absolutely no sin
This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5
4. So how do we handle our sin and darkness?

III. Right and Wrong Responses To Sin

- A. Understanding the structure of the passage
If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:6–7
 1. A possible wrong response to our sin (If we claim)
If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness.. 1 John 1:6
 2. The results of wrong response (2 parts)
If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, **we lie and do not live by the truth**. 1 John 1:6
 3. A contrasting proper response to sin ("But if" or "if")
But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light... 1 John 1:7

4. The results of a proper response (2 parts)
But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.** 1 John 1:7

B. **Wrong** and **right** response #1 - sin matters

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷ **But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.** 1 John 1:6–7

1. Wrong - sin does not matter; live how I want
2. Denies that God is light - no right and wrong
3. Ancient Gnostics - body does not matter; do what you want
4. Today - no such thing as right and wrong
5. This is a lie; not living by the truth
6. It matters - we are called to walk in the light
7. We were create to obey God, do right
8. When we do, fellowship with God and one another

C. **Wrong** and **right** response #2 - no guilt from sin

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.** 1 John 1:8–9

1. Without sin - here refers to no guilt from sin
2. This is the idea that sin does not make me guilty
3. God just accepts me and my sin

4. This is to deceive ourselves - no truth in us
5. We are called to confess our sin - not accept it
6. If we confess, God forgives and purifies
7. Sin brings guilt, confession brings God's forgiveness

D. **Wrong** and **right** response #3 - I don't sin

If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. ¹ **My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.** 1 John 1:10–2:1

1. Sin is a problem and makes guilty - but I never sin
2. Some religious folks act this way - holier than thou
3. John does not want us to sin - but we still do
4. When we recognize this - Christ pleads for us
5. He is our Advocate - our Defender
6. He is THE Righteous One - & speaks for us sinners

IV. The Law and the Gospel

A. God is light with no darkness - the Law of God

1. God is holy - and does not abide sin
2. God's Law thunders God's holiness and our sin
Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law;

rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.
Romans 3:19–20

3. We want to minimize our problem - a foolish path
 4. Our sin problem is worse than we ever feared
 5. God is Light - and we are full of darkness
 6. This is the Law of God in His Word
- B. The Gospel - forgiveness is available
My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 1 John 2:1
1. The law calls us away from sin
 2. But the Gospel promises forgiveness through Christ
 3. Forgiveness is not from us, but from Christ
- C. The basis of the Gospel - Christ's atoning death
He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1John 2:2
1. Christ is the atoning sacrifice - takes the wrath
 2. We can be forgiven - Christ took the wrath for us
 3. We can be accepted - Christ was condemned for us
 4. We can be received - Christ was forsaken for us

V. Applying the Word

- A. Do I respond to sin in my life in the wrong way?
1. Do I try to act as if there is no such thing?
 2. Do I try to act as if sin does not make me guilty before God?
 3. Do I act as if others sin but I do not?
 4. Sin is real; it afflicts us all; God will judge it
- B. Responding to sin the right way
1. If you have never embraced Christ - do so today!
 2. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sin!!
 3. Forgiveness is real and is available!!
 4. If you are a believer - don't slip into wrong response
 5. When we sin - come clean with God (and others!)
 6. Realize all struggle with sin - and proclaim the Gospel
- C. Gospel prayer regarding our sin

Right and Wrong Responses To Sin

1 John 1:5-2:2
January 18, 2015
Prayer
Psalm 79:9

Teaching keywords: sin, forgiveness, confession, God's character, law and gospel

Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake. Psalms 79:9

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

¹ My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 1:5–2:2

Right And Wrong Responses To Sin 1 John 1:5-2:2

Verse #	6-7	8-9	10, 2
Erroneous View of Sin (If we claim....)	We claim to have fellowship with Him and walk in the darkness	We claim to have no sin (we are not guilty)	We claim we have not sinned
Result of Error	We lie AND We do not do the truth	We deceive ourselves AND The truth is not in us	We make Him a liar AND His word is not in us
Correct Action to Combat Error (But if...)	Walk in the light as He is in the light	Confess our sins	(Parenthetical exhortation – don't sin) But if you sin...
Result of Correct Action	We have fellowship with one another AND Jesus' blood purifies us from all sin	God forgives our sin AND God purifies us from all unrighteousness	Jesus our Advocate with the Father AND Jesus our atoning sacrifice