

Theme: Christians have been regenerated, given a new nature, so that they can not embrace a Satanic life of lawlessness and sin.

I. John Wallace - *Murder In Coweta County*

- A. Book and movie about famous murder in Georgia
- B. John Wallace played by Andy Griffith; also Johnny Cash
- C. Early on helping build church building - good guy
- D. But then we see all the sin - eventually murder
- E. All his good deeds did not make up for the evil
- F. John - authentic holiness is doing good & avoiding sin
- G. Last time we looked at positive holiness - doing good
- H. Today we will focus on regeneration and its effects regarding sin

II. A Difficulty: The Meaning of “Doing Sin”

- A. Christians do not sin (KJV)
 - ⁶ Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him... ⁸ He that committeth sin is of the devil... ⁹ Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 1 John 3:6–9 KJV
 - 1. KJV - Christians don't sin; they can not sin!
 - 2. How can that be?

- B. What about 1 John 1:8-10 that says Christians do 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. 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 John 1:8-10
 - 1. John is very clear - we all sin
 - 2. To say otherwise is to call God a liar
 - 3. Forgiveness found in admitting our sin; not hiding it
 - 4. How can we reconcile these two passages
- C. The meaning of “doing sin”
 - No one who is born of God will **continue to sin**, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot **go on sinning**, **because he has been born of God**. 1 John 3:9
 - 1. Doing sin = continuing to sin; lifestyle embracing sin
 - 2. Again **perfect tense** has **present results**
 - 3. Those who have been born of God do not go on sinning
 - 4. This is why NIV, ESV, NASB translate it this way
 - 5. John - do not live as if we have not been changed

III. Why Christian's Can't Embrace Sin

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

A. Sin is lawlessness

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, **sin is lawlessness.** 1 John 3:4

1. But we live to obey God's law - not be lawless!

I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law 1 Corinthians 9:21

2. Lawless ones are not part of Christ's people

²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' Matthew 7:23 ESV

3. Lawlessness is characteristic of the opponents of God in the end times [see 2 Thessalonians 2:3-7]

B. Sin is Satanic

He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. 1 John 3:8

1. Those embracing sin are from Satan

2. Because Satan sins from the beginning

3. Satan's nature is to sin; Christians can't be this way!

C. Jesus came to undo sin and Satan

1. Jesus came to take away our sin

But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. 1 John 3:5

a. This refers to Jesus' work in bearing away our sin

b. This was John the Baptists message about Jesus

c. He took away our sin; we can't take it back!

2. Jesus came to destroy Satan's work of sin

He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.** 1 John 3:8

a. Jesus came not only to bear the punishment of sin, but to also to destroy the work of Satan - sin.

b. To embrace and rationalize our sin is to embrace Satan and His work, and to fight against Jesus and His work. This is unthinkable treason for a Christian.

D. We have been regenerated and can not embrace sin

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. 1 John 3:9

1. We can not embrace/continue in sin because we have been born of God

2. Note parallelism - born of God; seed remains in Him

3. Same point we saw in 1 John 2:29

4. Regeneration effects change in core of our being
"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. Jeremiah 31:33

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ **And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.** Ezekiel 36:26–27

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them **you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.** 2 Peter 1:4

a. In regeneration God's law is put in our hearts and minds, His Spirit dwells in us to prompt us to embrace God's Law and ways, and His very nature is implanted in us so that we might turn from sin and embrace righteousness.

b. Once again, this is the inheritance of every true Christian.

5. If all of this happened when we were born again, how could we continue to live in sin as if nothing has changed?

E. This does not mean there is no further struggle with sin, but it does mean that we will not surrender but will continue the fight!

IV. Applying the Authentic Word

A. Do we see that Christians may never surrender to sin?

1. John is clear - embracing sin is not an option
2. This requires us to deny our flesh, take up cross
3. This is unpopular in our culture - especially today
4. But we must resist world, flesh, devil

5. We are not defined by our sinful desires

6. We can not embrace lawlessness, sin

7. We can not condone sin - in ourselves or others

8. Are we willing to walk as authentic Christians?

B. Do we see what happened at regeneration?

1. We did not join a club - we were regenerated

2. We didn't change philosophy - we were regenerated

3. Regeneration means we are not left on our own in this struggle

a. We have been given new hearts

b. God's Law is not written inside us

c. God's very nature is implanted in us

4. Am I finding my identity in various urges - or as a child of God?

5. Am I living out of regeneration - or old nature?

C. The Table of Authentic Freedom

1. Our nation celebrates 'freedom' this weekend

2. But we have adopted a new, false understanding of freedom

3. Here is true freedom - free to be the child of God

4. True freedom - free to live as the image of God

5. True freedom - free to say no to sin and yes to righteousness

Authentic Regeneration and It's Effects

1 John 3:4-10

July 5, 2015

Communion

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Teaching keywords: regeneration, holiness, sanctification, sin

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. ⁸ He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. ⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. 1 John 3:4–10