

# Life in the Word

Cornerstone Sermon-based Life Group Lesson



Sermon Series: 1 John Series

Sermon Title: The Believer and Sin

Scripture Passage: 1 John 3:4-10

## Getting Started Sharing from personal experience

Some years ago there was a comedy show called the *Flip Wilson Show*. One of the regular routines included humorous skits using the catch-phrase, “The Devil Made Me Do It!” Christians often rely on this type of “theology” to explain why they make bad decisions and get caught up in sin.

1. Should we blame the devil for everything we do that is less than Christ-like? Only some things? What type of things? And, if the devil “makes us do it,” how does he do that? Enjoy some lively conversation!

## Observation Discovering the context

1. According to Scripture, what was the first sin, when did it happen, and who was involved? What was the outcome? Support your answers with Scripture references.
  
2. If sin is defined as falling short of bearing the image of God’s glory, what is God’s glory?
  
3. Where does Scripture indicate that we were created to bear the image of God?

4. When confronted with the choice to bear the image of the glory of God or to become a “self-made man” and glorify his own image, Adam exercised God’s gift of free-will, to detriment of humanity. Before the fall, Adam and Eve had free will to choose to sin or not to sin. What about after the fall? Did they still have the free will to sin or not to sin? Or, did sin alter their free will disposition? Think about your response relative to the spiritual condition of a baby. Consider Psalm 51:5 and 1 John 1:8.

### **Interpretation** Discovering the meaning

1. According to 1 John 3:6, can a person who “keeps on sinning” be a true disciple of Jesus?
2. Let’s get more specific with a real-life scenario. What might 1 John 3:6 mean for a Christian who is caught in the trap of addiction and “keeps on sinning?” Many Christians suffer from addictions and question whether or not they are really are Christians because they “keep on sinning.” How would you minister to a person in this situation?
3. Explain the theology of 1 John 3:3-6 as it relates to what Jesus does with our sins. What does it mean that He “takes away sins?” Hint: Psalm 103:12 might be of help.
  - a. What is the meaning of Christ “removing” our sins as far as the east is from the west? Was this a one-time removal, or ongoing each time we still sin? Or, is it both?

4. According to 1 John 3:10, not loving your brother is a sin and indicates you are not practicing righteousness. What does not loving your brother mean? How do we know if we are not loving our brothers or sisters?

### **Core Truths** Discovering Biblical truth

In your own words, share at least one core truth God has shown you in this week's study and why it is timely or significant for you.

### **Practice Makes Progress** Putting knowledge into practice

What action is the Lord prompting you to take this week as a result of being in His Word?

### **Worth Memorizing**

Scripture: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

### **Prayer Time**

How can your Life Group pray for you this week?

### **Praise Time**

How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?