

Sin and the Christian (1 John 3:4-10)

January 18, 2026

TEXT: 1 John 3:4-10.

MAIN IDEA - Christians battle sin and practice righteousness because God's Spirit lives in them.

MEMORY VERSE—Rom. 6:11

1-SIN REBELS AGAINST GOD AND COMES FROM THE DEVIL (1 John 3:4, 8a). Though genuine Christians aren't sinless they progressively sin less as they confess and forsake sin **(1:9)**, while looking to Christ for their forgiveness and acceptance **(2 Cor. 5:21)**. Sin is lawlessness.

2 Cor. 5:17

Rom. 6:12-14

Genuine Christians don't make sin a habitual practice.

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Rom. 7:12, 22-23

John 8:44

2-SIN IS OPPOSED TO CHRIST WHO CAME TO DEFEAT SIN (1 John 3:5, 8b). Christians cannot live a lifestyle of practicing sin because to do so is to deny the Lord Jesus who died to pay for their sins.

Luke 19:10

Rom. 8:1-2; Rom. 6:6; Rom.8:30

John 8:31-36; Gal. 5:1

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Are you free? Has Christ given you freedom from the bondage of your sin? Are you making war with sin like your Savior?

3-TRUE CHRISTIANS DON'T LIVE IN SIN BECAUSE THEY CAN'T (1 John 3:6, 9). The Christian who abides in Christ doesn't live a lifestyle of sin. To abide in Christ is to remain close to Christ in communion, faith, fellowship, love, and obedience.

Isaiah (Is. 6:1-8), Peter (Lk 5:1-11), Paul (Acts 9:1-9), Woman at the well (John 4), Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

4-TRUE CHRISTIANS PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LOVE (1 John 3:7, 10). John's final point to

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clinch this argument is: don't be fooled by empty words, the true Christian is known by his actions. Righteousness and love are the normal practices of Christians.

John Stott (1921-2011) --*The righteousness that demonstrates our membership in God's family is not cold and clinical. It is inseparable from love. The God, who is light, is also love. Love is righteousness in relationship with others - not primarily an emotion, but an act of will. It is not feeling warm towards other people in a general way but doing good to specific individuals. Love as a feeling only is useless. No marriage can survive on feelings. Love has to be expressed in caring and sharing, in hard work and loyalty, in generosity and long-suffering. That's the love without which we have no right to claim to be God's children. Of course it is superhuman. It does not grow naturally in this world's soil. It is*

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the gift of God. But where it exists, there is positive proof of the life of God in the soul of man, and so of authentic membership of God's family.

Does this describe your way of life? Would those who know you testify that righteousness and love are fitting descriptions for how you live?

Conclusion—Matt. 25:31-46 contrasts the righteousness and love of God's people and those who are not.

Trust in Christ

Practice Righteousness & Love.