

1 John - Saints and Sinners

**Icebreaker: What is the best advice you have received from a senior member of your community?
God's divine character is the basis for our human conduct...**

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)

Three dangerous attitudes towards the reality of sin...

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... (Rom. 3:23)

How do you measure up to God's perfect standard? If not very well, then pay attention to the next three bullets and pick one or two with which you best identify?

- ***It doesn't matter*** – “If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 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)

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (Rom. 6:1-2)

¶ ***Holiness is a journey of progress, not perfection*** – “...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.” (Phil. 2:12b-13) – **Have you grown indifferent about certain areas of life? Do you justify your sin? If so, how?**

- ***It doesn't exist*** – “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us...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)

¶ ***Every day there is a civil war going on in the life of the Christian*** – “When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.” (Rom. 7:21-23) – **Pastor Craig said, “failing spiritually does not make you a spiritual failure.” Does this mentality ring true with you or do you feel differently?**

- ***It isn't forgiven*** – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

How might guilt show itself in your life? Does it keep you from thinking you are forgiven?

Be assured, though we stumble we are always wrapped in grace...

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. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John - Saints and Sinners

(1 John 2:1-2) – Of the three bullets above, with which do you best identify? How can you throw away any false attitude of sin today? What would it take ?