

2nd test of genuine faith

Is there a desire to sin less?

1. We should see Righteous living growing in us

- a. Abiding speaks of connection
- b. Abiding speaks of dependance
- c. Abide speaks of continuing

Abiding – one pastor

means keeping the words of Jesus in our hearts and minds, so that they are renewing and reviving us, shaping and sanctifying us, filling and forming us.

And it means keeping ourselves in his infinite, enduring, sin-bearing, heart-conquering, life-giving love.

2. Righteous living flows out of a right relationship with Jesus

- a. Positional righteousness
- b. Practical righteousness
- c. As sin decreases in your life, righteous living should increase

3. Righteous living flows from a right relationship

Warren Wiersbe

An unbeliever who sins is a creature sinning against his Creator. A Christian who sins is a child sinning against his Father. The unbeliever sins against law; the believer sins against love.

The emphasis here is not on sins (plural), but on sin (singular): "Whosoever practices sin." Sins are the fruit, but sin is the root.

Sin is basically a matter of the will. For us to assert our will against God's will is rebellion, and rebellion is the root of sin. It is not simply that sin reveals itself in lawless behavior, but that the very essence of sin is lawlessness. No matter what his outward action may be, a sinner's inward attitude is one of rebellion.

Life application commentary

There is a difference between committing a sin and continuing to sin. Even the most faithful believers sometimes commit sins, but they do not cherish a particular sin and choose to commit it. A believer who commits a sin repents, confesses, and finds forgiveness.

Those who continue to sin, by contrast, will not repent of what they are doing. Thus, they never confess and never receive forgiveness. They live in opposition to God, no matter what religious claims they make.