

Lifestyles of Sin and Lawlessness

1 John 3:4-10

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A. The Lawbreaker v.4

1. **“Practice sin”** has the usage of the manufacturing and constructing the failure to uphold the Divine law. Everything from their actions to the intent of their heart devises plans to achieve breaking the law of God.
2. A person who Practices sin will scheme to pursue the desires of their wicked heart. This is a lifestyle that produces moral failure and misses the mark of God’s divine law. Micah 2:1-says- Woe to those who devise wickedness and work evil on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in the power of their hand.
3. Those who practice wickedness scheme in the night hours how to oppress, pursue evil desires, and carry out violence. They do it because they recognized they have the power to achieve the wickedness their hearts are set on doing.
4. **Sin:** Definition: a sin, failure
Usage: prop: missing the mark; hence: (a) guilt, sin, (b) a fault, failure (in an ethical sense), sinful deed.
that which is done wrong, committed or resultant sin, an offense, a violation of the divine law in thought or in act.
(Help Studies) is the brand of sin that emphasizes its self-originated (self-empowered) nature – i.e. it is not originated or empowered by God
Joshua 1:18- shows sin is a rebellion against God commandments and words and those who rebel would be put to death.
5. **Lawlessness:** the condition of one without law — either because ignorant of it, or because violating it.
Lawlessness could be broken down within two terms.
Iniquity- immoral or grossly unfair behavior.,
Transgression- an act that goes against a law, rule, or code of conduct; an offense, unrighteousness.
6. Here John uses two words to describe sin: "sin" and "lawlessness". In both OT and NT, these two words are used frequently as synonyms (cf. Pss 32:1; 51:3 Psalm 51:3 NASB1995
In John's community, however, they were used apparently with different meanings. The former word was used to describe transgression of the law, the breaking of God's commandments. The latter defined sin as rebellion against God and was connected with Satan's rebellion against God (cf. Mt 7:22; 24:11-13; 2Co 6:14-16; 2Th 2:1-12). **(Expositor's Bible Commentary (Abridged Edition): New Testament)**

John states about those who live a lifestyle where they reject the law of God which is meant to govern the morality of mankind (lawlessness) which leads them to conduct/actions that leads to sin (missing the mark; guilt) that rejects the divine nature of God from who this law proceeds from. This is more than just a some of decisions but a person's spiritual condition. This happens because they are separated from God, dead in sin, and by nature a child of wrath (Eph 2:1-3).

B. The Appearance v.5-6

1. **You Know:** be aware, behold, consider, perceive- (This is an understanding a knowing, John is talking to one who has believed in the son)
2. **Take Away:** Means here to lift up or remove.
3. This is the work Jesus does in us who are believers. He takes away or removes sin. This was essential in the reason of why Jesus came. (Jn 1:29); (Heb 9:26). John also points the fact that Jesus lived a sinless life. (cf. 1 John 2:1; 1 John 3:3; 2Co 5:21). There is no guilt of sin in him. Jesus saves us from the very nature of sin. Those who are in Christ no longer should have the desires of sin for its power has been lifted up.
4. Jesus appearing was to take away our sin in the sense of taking the penalty of our sin. This is immediately accomplished when one comes by faith to Jesus. Jesus takes away our sin in the sense of taking the power of sin away. This is an ongoing work in the lives of those who walk after Jesus. Jesus takes away our sin in the sense of taking the presence of sin away. This is a work that will be completed when we pass into eternity and are glorified with Jesus. **(Enduring Word Commentary)**
5. John points out that Jesus in humanity had no sin. In nature or in deed.
6. Abide means "to remain". Those who are in Christ not only are saved from the power of sin but also can now operate as one who knows Jesus intimately. Those who practice sin have yet to experience or have any relationship with Jesus.
7. A believer who truly knows Christ and follows the teachings of Christ with conviction, will not live in a state and lifestyle of sin. To know and have an intimate relationship with Christ is to experience his character, love, forgiveness and sacrifice personally in your life as you come to an understanding of who he is. When this happens a lifestyle of sin is no longer the pursuit.
8. the author states that those who "live" in the "sinless one" will, like him, live a life of righteousness. They commit themselves not to sin. And if they sin, they will confess it as lawlessness and abandon it. John acknowledges that the life of righteousness is possible only in Christ. By "living" in him, in his "sinlessness," one can expect conformity to his righteousness. On the other hand, those who continue to sin make it certain that they have never had their eyes opened spiritually to see him, nor have they ever known him (cf. Jn 5:37-38; 8:19; 14:7, 9; 3Jn 11. - **Expositor's Bible Commentary (Abridged Edition): New Testament**

C. The Children v. 7-8

1. Little Children- John is using language that refers to believers but also to believers who are impressionable and could be deceived.
2. He states that we be careful to not be deceived
3. One who is in right standing with God is righteous therefore he will practice righteousness as God is righteous.
4. In comparison the one practices evil is of the accuser who has been practicing evil since the beginning.
5. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.

D. The Seed abides V. 9

1. Seed- sperma, n. [43] [√ 5062]. seed, the part of a plant or animal that can propagate (or breed) the species (cf. "sperm"); by extension: children, offspring, descendants:
2. When God plants a seed it's something that is intended to grow and mature as it is tended to (took care of, fed).
3. As we as his little children abide in him. This seed kills the old nature ruled by Satan and produces this new nature patterned after the nature of Christ.
4. This seed produces a nature where righteousness can reign. Where the believer no longer finds the lawless nature appealing but delights in the law of the Lord. (Psalm 1:1-6).

E. The Distinction- V. 10

1. John states that the distinctions between the children of God and the Children of the devil are well seen. Because the Children of God has his "seed" and do not live a lifestyle of practicing sin but rather practices living by the law of ways of God.
2. A child of God no only lives by the law of God (righteous) but they delight in it- Psalms 1:1-2(Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law, he meditates day and night.)
3. John almost seems to sneak in that Love towards your brother is a characteristic of one who is a child of God.
4. Matthew 22:37-40 says "And He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."
5. Within practicing righteousness should be love. Just as we need to seed to practice righteousness, we also need it to love our brother.
6. Love and righteousness are each most perfectly displayed in the nature of Jesus. He was both righteous, and completely loving. – **(Enduring Word Commentary)**