**Sermon Notes**

“Following Our Sinless Savior”

1 John 3:4-10

June 13, 2021

**Growth Group Homework**

For the week of 06-13-21

Questions adapted from Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., 1, 2 & 3 John: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2013, pp. 79--86; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 321.

**Getting Started:**

1. How would most people define the term “sin”?

**Digging Deeper:**

Read 1 John 2:28 – 3:10.

1. “Lawlessness” (3:4) is more than the absence of law for John. It is a willful rejection and an active disobedience against God’s moral standard. It is a deliberate rebellious revolt against God’s will. Why is “lawlessness” especially inconceivable for a child of God? And what does 3:4 imply about a sinner’s attitude toward God? Is there any lawlessness left in your heart? If so, what should you do about it?
2. Sin is inconsistent with *the Father’s nature* (see 1:5; 2:29), so it is inconsistent for His children as well. It is also inconsistent with *Christ’s nature* (see 3:3,5), and we are becoming like the Son of God (see 3:2-3). How is sin also incompatible with *Christ’s work on earth* (see 3:5, 8)?
3. How has Jesus already destroyed the devil’s works (3:8)? How is He still destroying them? What works is He destroying?
4. What do you think it means to say that a child of God cannot sin (3:9)? Does John imply that we can attain perfect purity in this life (see 3:2-3)? Explain, drawing on other parts of his letter, if necessary.
5. Examine your own life in light of 2:29-3:10. If this gives you reason to doubt that you are a child of God, confess your sins and ask God to give you that new birth if you lack it. Discuss your situation with a mature Christian to discern whether your rebelliousness shows that you are not saved or just reveals areas in which you still need to grow. Ask that person to pray with you to abandon sin. Let 1:8-2:2 keep you from despair and 3:1-3 motivate you to change. You might also pray about Ephesians 3:16-21 and Philippians 2:12-13.
6. Can a person with a persistent, compulsive sin (such as alcoholism, pride, gossip, lust) be a Christian if he persistently confesses his sin, yet continues in it? Explain your reasoning. What about if he does not frequently confess?
7. Is righteous behavior a *condition* of being born of God or an *evidence* of it? How do you know? Why is the distinction important?

**Let's Pray:**