

4) We do not commit sin and get away with it - vs. 5-9

Vs. 5 - to take away sin is not the judicial forgiveness here but the removal of acts of sin in the believer's life

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Vs. 6 - "sinneth not" means does not habitually practice sin

Christians can commit sin - 1 John 1:8,10

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Commit sin is in the *present tense* and speaks of a linear, ongoing, action. A believer can't *practice* or *habitually* do sins.

"Since the present tense depicts linear action, John does not say that the Christian does not commit a single act of sin. That idea would be represented by the aorist tense. Instead he declares, 'No one who is dwelling in Him is continually sinning.'"

Donald Burdick, The Letters of John the Apostle, pg. 239

"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."

"In verse 6 he stated that no one who "lives in him" can practice a life of sin."

Expositor's Bible Commentary, 1,2,3 John, Glenn W. Barker, pg. 332

Vs. 7 - The righteousness indicated here is not one act but a continued practice of righteousness. In the Greek the article preceding righteousness speaks of a particular righteousness, in this case Christ's, which is characteristic of the new birth.

Just as children have some of the same characteristics of their parents so God's children will have His characteristics - righteousness.

Vs. 8 - to habitually practice sin is to reveal your true spiritual source.

Vs. 9 - Again, a child of God does not habitually practice sin.

"In the Greek, the verbs express continued action, not a single occurrence. Therefore, by using the present tenses of the Greek verbs, John is saying that the believer cannot practice habitual sin. 'The thought being conveyed in 1 John 3:9 is not that one born of God will never commit a sinful act but that he will not persist in sin.'"

New Testament Commentary, James and I-III John, Simon J. Kistemaker, pg. 303

"His seed remaineth in him" most likely refers to the Holy Spirit who is associated with the new birth (John 3:5-8) and in 1 John 2:27 it speaks of the anointing that abides in you. This anointing is the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that produces character in the believer (2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:22-23).

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

Job 5:17 (Job was not being disciplined for sin) Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

Psalm 94:12 Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

Discipline produces respect. It is true in the physical world and it is also true in the spiritual world.

10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Human parents discipline according to their own limited understanding of a situation. Sometimes parents discipline correctly, sometimes not.

God, being omniscient, always disciplines perfectly, fully understanding our need. His discipline is never too much or too little. It is always the perfect amount.

God's purpose in discipline is always for our benefit. Specifically, that we might be partakers of His holiness. Holiness is uniqueness with an intrinsically spiritual basis. Holiness is never used of secular things.

Holiness in:

Dress - woman are especially addressed about dress

1 Timothy 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:3-4

9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

- these passages don't speak against wearing jewelry in modest amounts; if it did the 1 Peter passage says woman shouldn't, then, wear clothes

1 Timothy 4:12 - young Christians are to be an example

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Music - Ephesians 5:19

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Some of the following issues were discussed in a recent Olive Tree Ministries forum:

Today's music is, once again, the product of the church-growth movement. This is one way you grow a church: lights, smoke, sound, and "worship-tainment." Church growth is a part of seminary training just as much as theology!

As a result, when the entertainment angle goes too far, church can seem like a performance at a local nightclub. Is this how a church prepares the people for the preaching from the Word of God?

Some lyrics are out-of-control as well. Some songs sound more like a valentine love song. Some words are inappropriate. Some are embarrassing. Hear some examples: **You are my desire/no one else will do/cause no one else could take your place/to feel the warmth of your embrace** (Kelly Carpenter: Draw Me Close). Or, **I wanna sit at your feet/lay back against you and breathe/feel your heartbeat/this love is so deep/it's more than I can stand** (Kari Jobe: The More I Seek You.) Or, **I want to look on the face of the one that I love/long to stay in your presence/it's where I belong/oh it's where I belong with you my love** (Kim Walker: Jesus Culture). This is "theoeroticism" or romance to God and is inappropriate! Who sings, "In the secret, quiet hour, I want touch your face and know you more" in church?

Some songs today represent outrageous theology as well. The popular song "Reckless Love" has 86 million listens on YouTube but is God's love "reckless"? God's actions were intentional and well planned when He sent His son to the cross. He knew us before the foundations of the world.

How sound are some of the producers of today's music such as "Hillsong," "Jesus Culture", Bethel music, and music produced by the New Apostolic Reformation? The lyrics may promote troubling theology including the Prosperity Gospel and Kingdom Now/Dominion Theology. What good can come from an outfit that produces "Naked Cowboy," a Hillsong production in New York?

Does some of today's music work people up, almost into an altered state of unconsciousness with repetitive words? Why must choruses be sung two-dozen times, inducing a trance-like look on the faces of many?

How worshipful is the music when ear plugs are distributed as you enter the sanctuary? What if the volume is above 80 decibels? Do you know that is hazardous to your health?

But it works! The church is vanishing in Australia -- except for Hillsong with 40,000 attendees! Maybe the ends justify the means!

We are to "come before His presence with singing" (Psalm 100:2) but with just any style of music?

Does anything go? Is the music reflecting the majesty of God or just making us feel good? Is the music focusing on the truth of Scripture?

Could the great end-time falling away predicted in the Bible be hitting the music industry as well as some of our pulpits? Or are the critics of today's music being overly critical and legalistic? Too often today, anything goes if it works.

Hundreds will unsubscribe from these e-mails and more may stop listening to "Understanding the Times" radio as a result of this discussion. We counted the cost. We just find it troubling that some seem to be worshipping worship.

Every area of our life - Ephesians 4:17-32

Romans 12:2 - don't let the world determine your standards

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Discipline is never fun! It hurts! But it produces: "The peaceable fruit of righteousness"

"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever." Isaiah 32:17

Philippians 4:1, 4-7

- 1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.
- 4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.
- 5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.
- 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
- 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.