

The Believer's Struggle With Sin

Sunday, March 20, 2022 -- 1st JOHN series -- Msg 29 -- Enrique J Rojas

1st JOHN 5:18-21

English Standard Version (ESV)

18 *We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.*

19 *We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

20 *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. 21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols.*

Review:

- Blessed assurances you need to know!
- We have blessed assurance of victory over our sin.
- Converted People have upward victory over sin in their lives.
- If you are not saved, turn to Christ in belief and receive them!
- If you are saved, realize and enjoy them!

1) -- Those not born of God, know no end to their sins.

Hebrews 11:6 -- “Without faith it is impossible to please him.”

- If you are not born of God, you are born of the flesh (in sin). (Psalm 51:5, Isaiah 53:6)
- Because we have sin we must die, either with Christ or in judgment with the evil one. (Romans 6:6, Revelations 20:10)
- Satan has his grip on us and the world from birth, but Jesus came so we may know him who is true and gain eternal life. Jesus is the only way in which the bondages of sin and the grips of the evil one can be broken. (V19-20)

2) -- Can I really be born of God if I have sin?

- Those born of God, do not continue in sin. (V18)
- You cannot be a follower of Christ and make a habit of sin.

1 John 3:4 -- “Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness ; sin is lawlessness”

- ⇒ Noah > Righteous man, walked with God (Genesis 6:9) > Became drunk and Naked (Genesis 9:21)
- ⇒ David > A man after God’s own heart (1 Samuel 13:14) > Slept with a woman that wasn’t his and killed her husband to cover it up. (2 Samuel 11)
- ⇒ Peter > Called to be an apostle by Christ himself > Would go on to deny Jesus. (Luke 22:54-62)

Romans 8:23 -- “And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

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A) In Christ we have been justified:

Romans 5:9–11 -- Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

- When we are justified then you are: A new creation, Holy, righteous and loved.
- If we have been justified then our faith is secured and neither sin or the devil can separated us from God. (V18)
- Our secured faith is not an excuse to go on in sin. Our secured faith should propels us towards holiness.

Romans 8:31–39 -- What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

B) When Christ returns, we will be glorified: New bodies, no more sin or toil.

- When we are glorified we will no longer suffer, no longer sin, no longer will death be in the world, and there will be no more tears. (*Revelations 21*)
- We will dwell with God and with each other in perfect love, forever. This is our hope!
- This is why we wait eagerly for the return of Christ. (*Romans 8:18-25*)

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C) While we wait for what is to come, we must go through sanctification. (Romans 6:1-4)

- If we want to overcome sin, we must walk in newness of life.
- It is the will of God for us to be sanctified. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)
- God is the one that sanctifies but we must be disciplined and take action, we must thrive for holiness.
- In order to grow in holiness we must resist the devil.

James 4:7–8 -- “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

- If you are walking with God the devil will flee from you. God protects you and the evil one cannot touch you. (V18)
- If we are drawing near to God, he draws near to us and in doing so guards us and sanctifies us.
- If we want to live our lives with victory over our struggle with sin we must walk in step with the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5)
- Our flesh opposes the desires of the Spirit, we must walk with the Spirit if we are to resist the flesh.

3) What can believers do to fight back against their struggles with sin?

A) Recognize that without God’s help we cannot do it.

1 Corinthians 3:6–7 -- I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

Psalms 127:1 -- Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

B) You must love God deeply and you must need God desperately.

- Our desires must be for God. If we want and love God, obedience will follow.
- Remember the cross and all that Christ has done for you. Have a heart of thanksgiving.
- Read his word. Meditate on his word.

Psalm 119:103 -- "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

Psalm 139:17 -- "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!"

Psalm 119:11 -- "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

- Read consistently, one book at a time, chapter by chapter, verse by verse.
- Pray honest and vulnerable prayers.

Psalm 139:23–24 -- "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"

- Sing to God! The word sing appears over 400 times in the bible and at least 50 of those are commands!
- The Lord is pleased when we sing and we are encouraged and reminded of deep Biblical truths.

Psalm 96:1–2 -- "Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day."

C) You must love the Church, you need to realize your need for the church!

- I don't mean a building but God's people. His bride. To love the church you must be in the church.
- There's very practical ways to love the church:
 - Pray for the members.
 - Serve in the life of the church.
 - Give to the church.
 - Be hospitable.
- God intended for us to be in community. We are not meant to be alone.
- If we are to live in community, we must pursue others and allow others into our lives.
- Loving God's people reminds us of God's love for us.
- Being with God's people should encourage us to be more like Christ.
- Being with Christ people helps up be accountable.

- Maybe you think you don't need God's people.

1 Corinthians 12:19–26 --¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be?²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

- The church is composed of many members.
- Every part of the body has a need for the other part.
- The Lord does not want division in the body.
- If other believer suffer, suffer with them.
- If one member is honored, rejoice together.
- When one member hurts you, you must seek reconciliation. (Colossians 3:13)
- You need encouragement in a world full of struggles. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Hebrews 10:24–27 --²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.²⁶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Reflection Questions:

- 1) Is there any sin in your life you have not repented of?
- 2) Does your lifestyle demonstrate that you have been born of God?
- 3) Do you know that you are God's? Do you struggle with assurance?
- 4) How can I better love my church?