

God, Sin, & I

1 Jn 1:5-2:2

INTRODUCTION

- A. We live in a very sinful world.
- B. In this passage, John tells us some facts about sin.

GOD DOES NOT SIN, v 5

- A. John had heard this message from God—God himself has said that he does not sin.
- B. John now declares this message to his readers.
- C. God is light.
 - 1. Light describes God’s very essence—His essence is light, moral perfection.
 - 2. Light describes those things which are “good, right, and true” (Eph 5:9).
- D. Light describes the absence of darkness.
 - 1. There is no darkness in God.
 - a. There is a double negative here in Greek which makes this statement emphatic.
 - b. The idea is that there is absolutely no darkness in God, for he is light.
 - 2. There is not a spot on God’s record.
 - a. We all have spots on our record of which we are not proud.
 - b. God has never done anything for which he needs to be ashamed.

WE ALL DO SIN, vv 8, 10

- A. John seems to have been dealing with perfectionists in these verses.
 - 1. These individuals actually claimed to be above sin.
 - 2. Charles Spurgeon said, “He who boasts of being perfect is perfect in folly.”
- B. John said that no one is above sin; he implied that we can never hope to be above sin.
 - 1. Many in our society claim to be without sin.
 - a. Sin has simply become an illness; we’re told that individuals can’t help what they do & that we should be tolerant.
 - b. “Sin” is a word seldom heard in our society, yet it is real & troublesome.
 - 2. Many in the church claim to be without sin.
 - a. “I just made a mistake. It’s not that big a deal.”
 - b. “Everybody tells what lies. God won’t care.”
 - 3. Do you have an attitude where you think you are above sin?
- C. John said that if we claim to be without sin:
 - 1. We deceive ourselves—We are affirming something about ourselves that is far from true.
 - 2. We do not have the truth or God’s Word.
 - a. God’s Word can only abide in those who live faithfully.
 - b. If we are living in sin, there is no place for truth in our lives.
 - 3. We make God a liar.
 - a. We claim to be wiser than God; we claim to know more than he.
 - b. The only way we can claim to be sinless is to call God a liar, for he says that we all sin.
- D. What sins have you committed? Are you living in sin?

GOD HAS A REMEDY FOR SIN, 1:7-2:2

- A. God requires that we walk in the light, 1:7.
 - 1. John was dealing with antinomians (those who claimed there was no law).
 - a. These individuals really thought that God did not care how they lived.
 - b. So, they lived however they wanted.
 - 2. John said that we could not live however we want & please God.
 - 3. If we are to have fellowship with God, who is light, we must walk in the light.
 - a. Walking in the light does not mean perfection.
 - b. Walking in the light does mean that I strive to be like God.
 - 4. If we walk in the light, “The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.”
 - a. Jesus’ blood does not just cleanse us of little sins.
 - b. His blood will cleanse us from all sin.
- B. God requires that we confess our sins, 1:9.
 - 1. Confession plays an important role in Scripture.
 - a. Mk 1:5.
 - b. Prov 28:13.
 - 2. Confession means to say the same thing, to agree with. The idea is that God outlines our sins, and we agree with him that we’ve done those things.
 - 3. Confession ensures that “he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
- C. God requires that we take hold of Jesus, 2:1-2.
 - 1. Jesus is our Advocate.
 - a. The idea of an advocate is one called alongside to help.
 - b. Jesus stands before the Father as our help (Heb 7:25).
 - 2. Jesus is our atonement or expiation or propitiation.
 - a. A “propitiation” is that which atones for the sins of another.
 - b. Jesus offered himself to atone for our sins.
 - 1) Mt 20:28.
 - 2) Because Jesus is our sacrifice, we have hope.

CONCLUSION

- A. Sin stains & sin destroys—Sin’s wages are death (Rom 6:23).
- B. Have you accepted God’s remedy for your sin?