

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

1 John 3:4-10



Not of God

This week Jesus and his purpose for coming to earth sound very heavy metal. We read that Jesus came to “destroy the works of the devil”! John’s language around sin can seem equally harsh and frightening. These words are not without context, however, and when they’re unmoored from the context John has carefully crafted they can be awfully unruly.

John has spoken of truth and and lies. Those who abide in the truth, and liars. He’s talked about darkness and light, and those who abide in darkness and those who abide in light. God has been likened to light, and here we see the devil introduced in conjunction with sin.

1 John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Sin and the devil are eternally linked, John says. Knowing that we ourselves are sinners, we can struggle to hear these words. We can hear these words with conviction, or with condemnation. We can be comforted or confronted by them. Jesus had an interaction with the Pharisees--who believed themselves to be children of God. They struggled to hear what Jesus said.

John 8:43-44 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

We can hear themes in Jesus’ language from the Gospel of John, that John has illuminated in 1 John. Lies and liars, no truth, and most recently the familial relationship with the devil. That which is not true is not of God. But the glorious truth is that God loves, and he is here to destroy the works of the devil. The truth will set you free!

The one who practices righteousness is a child of God. They are like him. They are from him. We are born of God through his Love.

The child of God acts out faith in God’s love through his own love of God, and God’s words, as well as a generous love of the people in their life. Anyone who doesn’t confess is a liar, and anyone who doesn’t obey is a rebel, and anyone who does not love is not of God.

Jesus came to
deliver us
from sin.

Jesus came to
set believers
apart.

The true Christian cannot continue in a pattern of and practicing sin.

- What are the sin patterns in your life?
- How are you dealing these patterns?

Consecrate means to be set apart for.

- Do you consecrate your life to Christ?
- Do you confess, obey and love?