

## The Reality of Sin 1 John 1:5-10

Society wants to deny the EXISTENCE of sin, the IMPACT of sin, the DEGREE of sin,  
and the CONSEQUENCES of sin.

*"The deadliest sin is the consciousness of no sin."* Scottish philosopher *Thomas Carlyle*

We can either deny Sin or deal with Sin.

John addresses three misleading and destructive beliefs about sin

### I. YOU CAN BE A CHRISTIAN AND STILL LIVE IN HABITUAL SIN 1 John 1:5-7

#### A. The Claim: "it doesn't matter if I sin" v. 6a

1. John describes their moral conduct as a habitual way of walking, a way of life.
2. These people were persistent, willful, and tenacious in the habits they chose.

#### B. The Consequences: we are lying v. 6b

1. If a person says they are saved, and then lives in persistent and willful rejection of the Word,  
The Word of God clearly declares that person a liar.

#### C. The Contrast walk in the light v. 7

1. Those who walk in the light, do so as a reflection of the power of God within them.
2. **So then it is false to believe that a Christian can live in habitual sin.**

### II. A CHRISTIAN CAN ATTAIN A SINLESS LIFE. 1 John 1:8, 9

#### A. The Claim "I no longer sin" v. 8a

The belief is that through some process of enlightenment - or spiritual development

1. It is possible to cease sinning at all.
2. According to this view spirituality is an attainment.

#### B. The Consequences: we deceive ourselves v. 8b

1. When a person is saved the light of God comes into the heart and reveals sin!
2. The mark of a true believer is not being without sin, but rather of being consciousness of sin!

#### C. The Contrast if we confess, we are forgiven. V 9

Forgiveness relates to the guilt of sin being pardoned.  
Cleansing points to the defilement of sin being removed.

### III. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS SIN. 1 John 1:10

#### A. The Claim "I have never sinned" v. 10a

1. That sounds very modern because in our day we deny that sins are really sins.
2. Instead of accepting responsibility for their behavior,  
people demand to be accepted as they are!

#### B. The Consequences we make God a liar. v. 10b

We make God a liar when we deny his explicit teaching that all have sinned. **Romans 6:20-23**

#### C. The Contrast When we fail, we have an advocate with the father. 1 John 2:1-2

1. So, sin is inherent to human life. Everyone does sin!
2. While there is no allowance for sin, there is a perfect provision for when we do sin: