

First John 3:4-6

Introduction: in 3:4-9 John mentions the concept of sin 10 times

- 1) Understand the sinfulness of sin—3:4
  - a) The pattern of life indicating the lack of salvation—<sup>4</sup> *Each one who is characterized by practicing* [pres. act. ptc. ποιέω] *sin* [ἁμαρτία] *is practicing* [pres. act. ind. ποιέω] *lawlessness* [ἀνομία] *also*, (cf. 3:8a)
  - b) Description of sin—and *sin* [ἁμαρτία] *is* [pres. act. ind. εἰμί] *lawlessness* [ἀνομία].
    - i) Lawlessness is not merely breaking a law, but opposition to the law itself, i.e. the desire to have my own way (autonomy).
    - ii) It is a deliberate deviation from and infraction of the standard of right, a willful rebellion, arising from the deliberate choice of the sinner. (Hiebert)
- 2) Remember the common Christian knowledge of the mission and character of Christ—3:5
  - <sup>5</sup> *And you<sup>pl</sup> know* [pf. act. ind. εἶδω] *that* [ὅτι] ... (2 things)
    - a) One purpose of His incarnation—*That One* (Jesus) [ἐκεῖνος] *was revealed* [aor. pass. ind. φανερώω] *in order that* [ἵνα] *He* (Jesus) *may take away* [aor. act. subj. αἴρω] *our sins* [ἁμαρτία], (cf. John 1:29; 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:8b)
      - i) How inconsistent to claim to be a follower of Christ and yet habitually practice the very things Christ came to take away!
      - ii) Christ saves us from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, the pleasure of sin, and eventually the presence of sin.
    - b) The sinlessness of His incarnation—and *sin* [ἁμαρτία] *is* [pres. act. ind. εἰμί] *not in Him* (Jesus). (cf. 1:5; 3:7; John 7:18)
      - i) Christ, in His humanity, **DID** not sin, but rather submitted to the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit in obedience to the written Word.
      - ii) Christ, in His deity, **COULD** not sin.
- 3) Discern the contrasting lifestyles—3:6
  - a) The pattern of life indicating genuine salvation—<sup>6</sup> *Each one characterized by residing* [pres. act. ptc. μένω] *in Him* (Jesus) ...
    - i) *is not* (habitually) *sinning* [pres. act. ind. ἁμαρτάνω].
    - ii) cf. 2:29; 3:9
    - iii) Christians do sin (cf. 1:8-2:2), but sin is the exception, not the norm.
  - b) The pattern of life indicating the lack of salvation—*Each one characterized by sinning* [pres. act. ptc. ἁμαρτάνω] ... (2 things)
    - i) *has not seen* [pf. act. ind. ὁράω] *Him* (Jesus)
    - ii) *nor has known* [pf. act. ind. γινώσκω] *Him* (Jesus).