

Dealing With Secret Sin

1 John 1:5-9

Introduction: We have created a church where everyone tries to look perfect and pretend they have no struggles or problems.

Illustration of Paint on rusted car

1 John tells us what a Christian looks like in everyday life. What are the signs of a true Christian compared to a hypocrite? "If we say..." three times

1:5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Who is God?

God is Spirit, John 4:24.	Transcendent, Eternal
God is Love, 1 John 4:8	Kindness,
God is light, 1 John 1:5	Holiness, Justice

Three errors common in John's day:

Error 1: Sin doesn't matter:

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

A. Walking means your habits in life.

Examples of walk: 2 Cor. 5:7 Walk by faith not sight
Col. 4:1 Walk in a manner worthy of Christ
Eph. 4:17 Don't walk s gentiles do
Gal. 5:16 Walk by the spirit not by flesh

B. What is sin? Its missing the mark

James 4:17, 1 John 3:4, Is. 59:1-2, Rom. 6:23

C. But is sin real?

Many people create their own morality
Jeremiah 10:23 the way of man is not in himself, his own steps
Mt. 15:8-9 In vain teach doctrines of men, they claim to worship
Many people just neglect to think about sin

Error 2: We say we don't sin

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A. Many people live in denial

Like an over weight person/mirrors. Like a poor person/mail.

- B. 1 Kings 22:8 Ahab to Jehoshaphat: There is one but I hate him!
Why confess sin?
1. When we confess we receive a divine sense of forgiveness (Ps 32) "When I was silent of my sins, my bones waxed old. When I confessed, Lord restored me.
 2. Though we are Christians, we still sin. Romans 6:12 don't let sin master over you.
Note Peter, David, Abraham
 3. Repentance must be continuing, not one time,
Rev 2:5 Church in Ephesus: consider how far you have fallen. Repent and do like did at the beginning.
 4. Our goal is more than avoiding hell, it is becoming more like Jesus every day.

Error 3: We say we don't have a history of sin

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

A. There is great danger in not remembering history

Don't remember the past will soon repeat it.

Matthew 18:21-35 Parable of unforgiving servant

Sinners are "them" not "us"

We judge because they sin "differently" than we do.

B. Error of being without sin

1. Remember that even the best Christians struggle, Rom. 7:14-25
2. Remember that we are at war with Satan, Eph. 6
3. Remember that we have changed, we must not go back: Peter speaks of pigs and mud 2 Peter 2:22
4. The church is a place to get well, not show off: we need the great Physician, Matthew 9:12

2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

1. You May not sin

God is on your side! He desperately wants to save you.

For that to happen you must admit that you have no sin!

2. Jesus is my advocate

He's at the right hand fighting for me.

3. Propitiation

Payment for sins. God has already paid for your sin

Your job is to obey him.

