

CAN WE POSSIBLY LIVE ABOVE SIN?

1 John 3:1-9

INTRODUCTION: Some Christians say they have not sinned for years. Does the Bible teach that a Christian can live completely above any sin or any failure in their lives? 1 John 3:4-9. Those verses make it almost sound like a Christian can reach a point of sinless perfection but if that is true, we run into some tremendous difficulties. First you run into the difficulty of human experience. All the great men and women the Lord used for His glory seemed to have a sin problem even after they believed. Philippians 3:12-14. Second there is the problem of the contradiction with what the Bible teaches about our sinful human nature: 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Colossians 3:9-10; Galatians 5:16-17. Third, believing a person can live above sin and never sin again goes against the clear teaching of God's Word: 1 John 1:8-10; 1 John 3:6-8.

I. OUR PROVISION FOUND IN CHRIST!

We have a provision given to us through Jesus Christ as Christians: 1 John 3:4. That assurance lets us know that we are saved from the penalty of our sin. Romans 5:6-10. Jesus died on that cross to deal with our sins: 1 Peter 2:24. Jesus Christ is both our sin offering and our scapegoat. 1 John 1:9.

II. THE PRACTICE OF THE SAINTS!

We don't practice sin: 1 John 3:6. It is not that we never sin it is saying the true child of God will not practice sin. If you are a Christian, it will not be the pattern of your life to live in sin on a continuing basis. The Bible says that if you are a true child of God, you will practice righteousness: 1 John 3:7.

III. THE POWER OF GOD'S SALVATION!

The third thing we must see is the power of our salvation. 1 John 3:8-9. We are talking here about the wonderful experience of being born again: John 3:3. When we are truly born-again certain things will be true in our lives. 1 John 3:9. When you order a hamburger you can have it your way. But when you are born again you must have it God's way. If you are still living your way you have never been born-again: Proverbs 16:25. As a believer in Jesus Christ you now have two natures in yourself and now you have a choice to obey God from your heart that you never had before being born-again. Psalm 1:1-2. A real believer does not have to be forced to do the will of God. A true believer rejoices to do the will of God. Romans 7:22. 1 John 3:9 tells us that as a true believer in Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit now lives in us and will direct our hearts to desire to please our heavenly Father: Ephesians 4:30; James 4:4-5. That means the Holy Spirit is jealous of the control of our lives for God's glory. Some people who claim to be God's children get into sin and never turn back to the Lord. What does the Bible have to say about that? 1 John 2:15-19.