



1 John

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1 John

1 John 3:9

- This passage has the opportunity for huge misunderstanding, when taken out of context.
 - When used out of context, this passage is so “disturbing” that translations have made adjustments to the words themselves to explain-away the issues.
 - In its plain sense it says that if you are “born of God” you do not sin.
 - Is there a basis here for “sinless perfection?”
 - Is there a cause here for concern of our own salvation?
 - As with verse 6, this verse must agree with 1 John 1:8, or we have misinterpreted something.

1 John 3:9

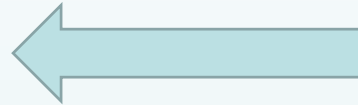
- Solutions that are often presented—
 - The “tense” solution: make the sin a habitual action.
 - The “ideal” solution: make the perfection a future state.
 - Verses 6 & 9 were quotations from those who left, and John is using them as an example of heresy.

1 John 3:9

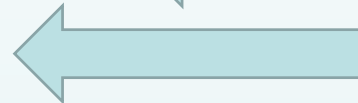
- The heart of the passage: “His seed abides in him”
 - What does it take to have God’s “seed” (Jesus Christ) *in you*?
 - “ye must be born again”
 - To be born again, you must place your faith in Him (believe)
 - The commandment we have is to “believe in the name of His son” (3:23)
 - Thus, belief *must be* at the heart of this passage
- If “His seed abides” then you are “born of God”
 - And when you are “born of God” you do not “sin” (singular).
- In fact, you cannot “sin” because you are already “born of God.”

1 John 3:9 – a *chiasm*

- Everyone who is born of God



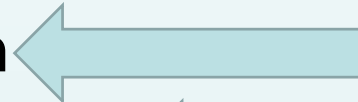
- sin does not commit



- **because His seed abides in him**



- and he is not able to sin



- because of God he is born



Detroit Baptist Seminary Journal 4 (1999): 37. Print.

To understand 1 John 3:9, let's review 1 John 3:7-8

- The one doing “the righteousness” is righteous –v7
- The one doing “the sin” is from the devil –v8
- The one born of God “sin” does not do –v. 9
 - Any sin? What about 1 John 1:8
 - Which sin (singular) is in mind?
 - Is it “the sin” of v. 8?
 - If no, why not?
 - If *any* sin, how does this reconcile with other passages?
 - If *any* sin, why does the context of 7-8 speak of specific sin and righteousness, one that causes you to be “of the devil?”
- Major point: John speaks of “the sin” as the sin of unbelief.
- Study “the sin” in John’s works

Questions?

- New Article: Choosing a Study Bible
- Last week's article – Rethinking Acts 2:38
- This week's "Ask the Theologian"
 - Falling from Grace and Romans 11
 - What Language did Jesus Speak?
- Email me! randy@randywhiteministries.org