

**Intro:** Karl Menninger Quote: “Whatever Became of Sin?”

We have all kinds of names and excuses for our sin. John MacArthur puts it well: Quote:

When the bible speaks of “sin” what is it talking about? (Slide)

In our passage from the book of 1 John today the Apostle takes sin head on...and tells us very directly how to deal with it!

1 John 1:5-2:2 Page 862

How To Deal With Sin In Your Life (Or Not!)

1 John 1:1-4 Page 862

### 1. Lie About It (Sin) And Cover It Up.

The first option John talks about (which he isn't recommending btw) is that we can choose to deny it and lie about it: Not ME! If we go down that path John says, we are going to have to lie to 3 different sets of people.

- Lie to others: 1:6 “If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie...”

John says we start by lying to others; Not me. There is nothing in my life that is wrong. Maybe a slight error

Perhaps a miscalculation, Confusion or maybe a misunderstanding ... Not me...it was THEIR Fault!

We start down this path by blaming everyone else...refusing to take responsibility:

Goes back to the Garden: Gen “They took and ate: God came: What happened? Adam: The Woman: The Snake

If we follow this pattern, make this choice we seldom if every say: “I have sinned.” I was wrong. Guilty

- Lie to ourselves: 1:8 “If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us!”

If we lie to others long enough...we can begin to believe our own lies John says. We can become so immune to guilt and responsibility that we actually begin to believe...I haven't done anything wrong!

Illus: You have seen it on the internet: “Mom” Did you take a cookie? Kid with chocolate all over face: “No!”

First we lie to others...then we lie to ourselves...and finally John says,

- We lie to and about God: 1:10 “If we claim to be without sin we make HIM out to be a liar!”

You see, when we get to the place in our lives where we are denying that we have offended God, that there is SIN

When there is always an excuse, always a rationalization, always someone else as the scapegoat...we never at fault

When we maintain that there is no sin in our life...Then we are saying, “God is wrong...What He said isn't true!”

God makes it clear in His word that sin is the issue that separates us from relationship and fellowship with Him.

- There is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.” Eccl 7:20
- As it is written, there is none righteous, not even one; Rom 3:10
- And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world. Eph 2:1

You see, here is the reality. God is light...and in Him is no darkness at all! And, if we want relationship with Him, then we have to deal with our sin...because our sin is an offence to His holiness, His justice, His righteousness and his Glory. And us just acting like it isn't so...like we haven't offended Him isn't dealing with it. When we do that we lie: Others, Self, God So there needs to be a second option...one that actually DEALS with our sin, and so John tells us, we can confess it!

### 2. Confess Our Sin And Seek Forgiveness. 1 John 1:9

Instead of lying about our sin, acting like it isn't there, John says, take responsibility, admit your faults, ask forgiveness!

- Confess: Lit = to say the same thing about; Admit truth of accusation;  
Here what we are doing is saying to God: You are right! My actions were wrong, crossed line, no excuse, no blame I did what I wasn't supposed to do; I didn't do what I should have done... “I have sinned, offended your holiness”  
There is no darkness in YOU, but Father there is darkness, sin, wrong, guilt in me. I have sinned.  
Will you please forgive me?

So, when we do our part...when we admit and confess, then God responds:

- He Forgives: Lit = to send away, to forgive a debt, to remit or to release from obligation; to cancel a debt owed  
When we ask the Father for forgiveness, he forgives our debt, and our shame and our guilt!  
Illus: OT Scapegoat: Sin symbolically placed on animal...and sent away!
- Purifies: Lit = to cleanse; to clean to purge, to remove pollution or uncleanness  
All of the darkness that we have brought on ourselves...He purifies, cleanses, makes clean

Now, how does that happen? If God is just and holy, and if there is a price for sin that must be paid. If there is an obligation that has been incurred, then how is that obligation met? Does God just wink and blink and say...its all good? NO

That would not be just or righteous. His justice and holiness must be satisfied. And that is what John tells us about in 2:1-2

John says God forgives us based on two things that Jesus is...and does!

- He is our atoning sacrifice: Propitiation: 2:2 Lit = Satisfaction of Justice of God: Wages of sin: Death: Jesus Died!  
John says, He took our place! The just for the unjust, in order to bring us to God. The price was paid Not by YOU  
God doesn't just wink and blink and say, forget it, its all Good: Price was paid on the cross. He took YOUR place  
Not just YOUR place...but He died for the sin of the world...Sufficient for everyone: Operational in those believe Jn 1

- **He is our Advocate:** Lit = *one called alongside to help; one who speaks on another's behalf; argues in your favor*  
Illus: Judicial term: Talks about what a lawyer does for you. Argues your case! Intercedes for your favor  
Rom 8:31-34; Heb 7:25 He is at the right hand of the Father interceding on our behalf!  
Illus: Every time I sin and seek forgiveness, and Satan, the accuser says GUILTY; Jesus says: PAID IN FULL!

**Applic:** Isn't it wonderful? We don't have to hide our sin. We don't have to cover it up. Act like it isn't there, Lie about it  
We simply have to confess it...bring it to the Father and admit it, ask for His forgiveness, and accept what Jesus has done!  
Doesn't that make you want to love him? Doesn't that make you want to serve him? Doesn't make you want to RUN to him!  
That leads us to the third way we can deal with sin in our life: We can OVERCOME it!

### 3. We Can Overcome Sin. 2:3-6

John says forgiveness is just the beginning for a follower of Jesus. Our goal is not to JUST be forgiven...but to OVERCOME!  
We want to be living in such a way that sin is less and less a part of our life. WE want to learn how to find his strength  
We want to grow and mature and become stronger so that we can resist sin and live the way Jesus lived!

John says there are a couple of ways we do that...Ways that we learn to be Overcomers

- Obey his commands: We DO what He tells us to do!  
The first part of overcoming sin in our life is to begin to incorporate the life and words of Jesus into how we live.  
When He says: Forgive others like I have forgiven you...It isn't a suggestion we take under advisement  
It is a moral obligation that we need to follow and obey!  
When He says: Love others the way I have loved you...It isn't just a suggestion that we love the loveable  
It is a moral command that says, I am going to see people through the eyes of Jesus and love like He loved!  
Vs 5: "If anyone obeys His word" That is you and I! We read it as a roadmap for life!  
It isn't some mysterious collection of good ideas, insights that might help, suggestions to try: It is God's directions!

Joh 5:19 *"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.*

- Walk (live) like Jesus: If we want to learn how to overcome sin in our life just follow Jesus.

#### **3 Habits Of Jesus Are A Great Place To Start!**

~Worshipped Weekly

Spent time in community worship

~Went apart to pray privately and seek God

Spent time talking to...and listening to Father

~Taught others what He heard from Father

Was a Conduit not a Reservoir)

Here is a simple way to overcome sin: Read the Gospels: Do what Jesus Did!

#### **CONCL:** How do YOU deal with sin in your life?

- Lie about it? Confess it? Overcome it?  
John will tell you...I wont go away. I wont get better. It wont fade  
The guilt, the shame, sin...will increase day by day  
David said in Psalms: When I hid my sin...it was like my bones were melting within me!  
Seeking forgiveness from God is the answer
- Have you done that? Do you know Him? Do you have a relationship with Him?  
Has there EVER been a time when you came to God and asked for your sin to be forgiven?  
Do you have that fellowship with Him? Can you hear his voice? Are you in Fellowship with Him
- Maybe you do know Him...but you are struggling with overcoming sin.  
Maybe you convinced yourself you could walk like the world walks...and it would be OK  
But it isn't...and you know it isn't.  
It's time to forsake those things that are holding you back...Start to walk like Jesus walked  
Yes you will stumble...Yes it will come slowly...but day by day, as you lean into Him  
Day by day as you ask the Holy Spirit for strength...You will begin to overcome....  
His light will shine through

Whatever your need...you come...Find in Him...your Advocate...Your Atoning Sacrifice, Your guidance and Strength