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Title: Who or What Is a Christian? A Christian Strives to Be Free from Deliberate Sin

Text: 1John 3:4-10

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. The Imperative of Love In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

I. What Is Sin? v.4

Sin is rebellion, lawlessness, disobedience in relation to God and His Word.

Sin can be intentional or unintentional.

Sin can be things we commit or things we omit to do.

II. Christians Are Unable to Willfully and Continually Live in Sin. v.6-8

Christians experience a new birth.

Christ dwells in our hearts and gives us spiritual power to resist sin.

Christ corrects us when we sin.

Hebrews 12:6 - because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

Jesus died to save us from sin and its consequences.

III. How Do We as Christians Avoid Allowing Sin to Pull Us Down?

Hide God's word in our hearts. PS.119:11

Resist the Devil and his temptations. James 4:7

Submit ourselves to God. James 4:7

Draw near to God in prayer. James 4:8

Associate with fellow Christians. Hebrews 10:25

Avoid friendships with those who oppose God. James 4:4

James 4:4-5 - You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?

Avoid placing ourselves into situations where we will be tempted.

1 Corinthians 15:33-34 - Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame. Listen to and obey the Spirit of God. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.