

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 John 3:1-9
Lesson #12
Sanctified "in Christ"
03/20/2022

Three different definitions of Christianity



It's about eternal **life**.

What Christ does FOR us



It's about personal **holiness**.

What Christ does IN us



It's about social **justice**.

What Christ does THROUGH us

1 John 3

"1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be **called children of God**; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now **we are children of God**, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him **purifies himself, just as He is pure**. 4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. 5 And you know that **He appeared in order to take away sins**; and **in Him there is no sin**."

This is "good news"



but there is a qualifier that follows.

"6 No one who abides in Him sins; **no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him**.⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you; **the one who practices righteousness is righteous**, just as He is righteous; 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

9 **No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**"

This is NOT "good news".



Problem Passages

are **Biblical texts that seem to contradict**

- **other texts**
- **common sense**
- **sound theology**

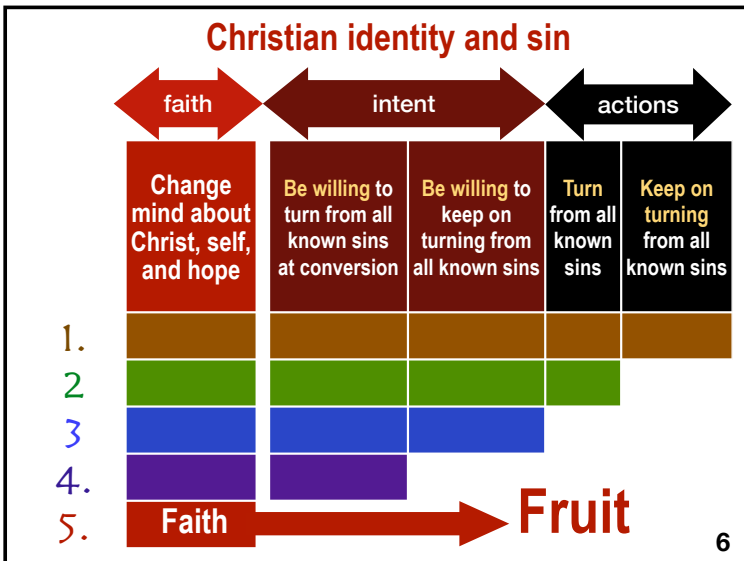
Problem Passages

must be addressed by

Bereans


but don't lend themselves to **dogmatic interpretations.**





“Get rid of this bunkum about the “carnal Christian.” Forget it! If you’re carnal, you’re not saved.”


Leonard Ravenhill
(British evangelist)



7

“A Christian cannot live in known sin and remain in a saving relationship with Christ.”


John N. Oswalt
(Wesley Biblical Seminary)



8

“Paul clearly argues that good works are necessary for eternal life.”

Tom Schreiner
(Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)




9

Berean helper

Assumptions

2 Timothy 2:15

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”



- The Scripture (rightly understood) presents a **consistent message**.
- The Bible is not an encyclopedia of proof texts **but requires interpretation in context**.
- Inerrancy may apply to the message of the Bible **but not to our reading of it**.


10

Berean helper

Cultural context

1 John 2:26

“These things I have written to you concerning **those who are trying to deceive you**.”



Some **Gnostic** sects were:

1. morally permissive (lawless), ignoring the **Word and Way of the Cross**, and
2. separating the **(physical) Jesus** from the **(spiritual) Christ**.

11

Literary context



1 John 1

“7 but if we **walk in the light** as He Himself is in the light we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.** 8 **If we say that we have no sin,** we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us”

Walking in the light means that we

1. **we have fellowship with one another.**
2. **we acknowledge our sin.**
3. **we are cleansed by the blood of Jesus.**

12

Theological context



The Gospel involves **abiding in Christ / walking in the light:**

- Respecting the **moral law.**
- Confessing our **sin and need of a redeemer.**
- Recognizing **the Word & Way of the Cross.**
- Fellowship with God through **faith in Christ.**
- Viewed by God as **without sin “in Christ”.**

13

Experiential context



Sinless behavior is not observed to be the experience of any, **let alone every Christian.**

Some claim that we “need not” sin **but no one claims that we “cannot” sin.**

Others believe that John is talking about persisting in sin. **But does that really resolve the dilemma?**

Is John making the point that - “in Christ” we are “saints” by calling **not conduct?**

14

Corinthian Saints / Sinners

1 Corinthians 1

“2 to the church of God which is **sanctified in Christ** Jesus, **saints by calling,** with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:”

1 Corinthians 3

“1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to **men of flesh,** as to babes in Christ... 3 for you are **still fleshly.** For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are **you not walking like mere men?**”

15

✓ **Is the “flesh” still present?** “The flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.” *Gal. 5:17*

✓ **Was Paul free from sin?** “For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.” *Rom. 7:19*

- Perfection in this life is unrealistic.**
- Powerlessness in this life is unnatural.**
- Progress in this life is unfinished.**

16

Hints within the text



“Cannot sin” must only refer to Christ’s Spirit. *2 Cor.5:21*

That which is “born of God” is the Spirit of Christ in our “new man.” *Eph.4:20-24*

To the extent that we are walking in that Spirit, we cannot sin.

“Abiding” like “trusting”, is relative and is “in process” for Christians. *1 Jn.2:28*

“Take away sins” is through the blood of Christ, not the Spirit of Christ. *1 Jn.1:7*

16

1 John 1:5-10; 3:2-10 **Paraphrase**

“Don’t walk in the “lawless” darkness of the sin of the Gnostic heretics - rejecting the light of Gospel in Jesus - the Word and Way of the Cross. Remember that we, being born again, have Christ’s Spirit indwelled in us. The life of Jesus as manifest in His Spirit will not and cannot sin. To the extent that we abide in, and walk in His Spirit we will not and cannot sin either. When we fail to abide or walk perfectly, it is not Christ’s Spirit but the “flesh” that is showing. We identify ourselves in this world by the way we walk.”

1 John 3:1-10

John is echoing Paul & Peter in:

**Romans 8:1-25,
Ephesians 2:1-10,
Ephesians 4:17-24,
Philippians 3:1-21
2 Peter 1:1-11**

Two theoretical narratives of reconciliation between man and God

**Paraclete
(Enabler)**



Jesus’ Spirit enables us to be holy through an infusion of his righteousness in us.

(Holiness, Roman Catholic)

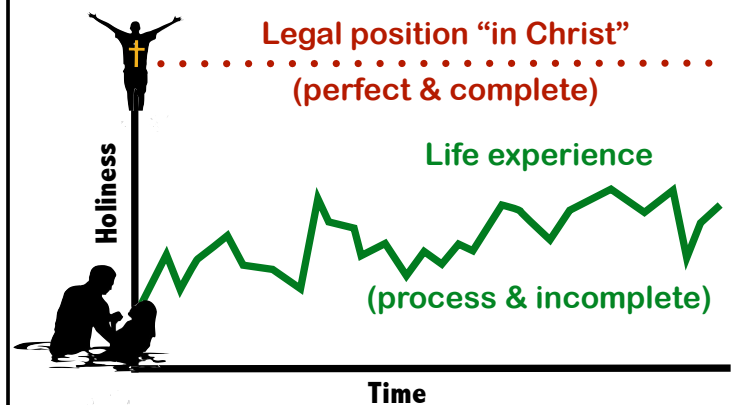
**Surrogate
(Substitute)**



Jesus is our holiness through an imputation of his righteousness to us.

(Reformation Protestant)

Our legal standing in Christ



“Holiness is not the way to Christ; Christ is the way to holiness. **Better still, Christ is our holiness.**”

Charles Spurgeon

“I believe the holier a man becomes, **the more he mourns over the unholiness which remains in him.**”

Charles Spurgeon

The Gospel is a **Show** and **Tell** witness.

Paraclete
(Enabler)



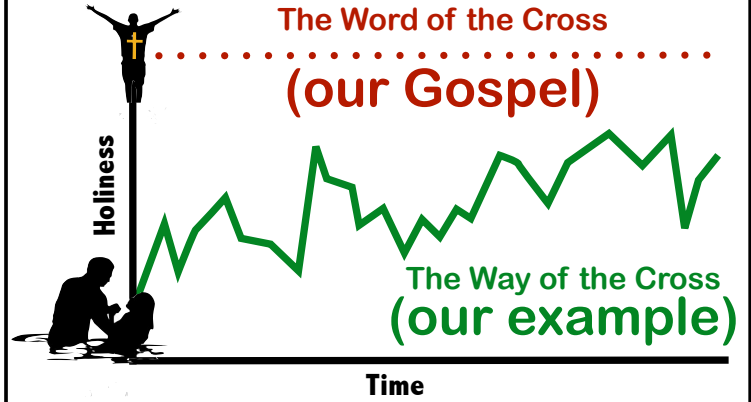
Jesus' Spirit
is the Power
of our ministry
in this world.

Surrogate
(Substitute)

Jesus' Cross
is the Good News
of our message
to this world.

24

Our identity & witness as Christians



25

Take your
baptism
seriously
because
God does.

1 Corinthians 6:11

“Such **were** some of you; but you **were** washed, but you **were sanctified**, but you **were** justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.”



26

Romans 12

“1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”



27

1 John

Next week
3:10

Showing
your ID.

28

Romans 8

“¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the **law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** has set you free from the law of sin and of death. . . . ⁵ For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ However, **you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.** ¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.”