

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

May 2016

True Christianity

INTRODUCTION

Why is it easier for most people to see the faults in others than in themselves?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read 1 John 2:28- 3:10

Note: "Propitiation" (2:2 and 4:10) has to do with the meaning of Christ's death from God's perspective. Christ's death brought forgiveness; but before God could forgive a guilty sinner, His justice had to be satisfied. This is where propitiation comes in. The word carries the idea of satisfying God's holiness through the death of a substitute. It does not mean that God was so angry that Christ had to die to make Him love sinners. Christ's death met the demands of God's law and thus broke down the barrier between men and God, making it possible for God to take away sin. The word "mercy seat" in Heb. 9:5 is equivalent to "propitiation." (Ex. 25:17-22) The blood on the mercy seat covered the broken law and made it possible for God to deal with Israel.¹

1. John suggests that false doctrine and false living go together. What are five motives for holy living? **Vv 2:28; 29; 3:1, 6, 9**
2. Why does John refer to Christians as children? **Jn 1:12**
3. What is the difference between being a child of humanity and a child of God? **2 Pet 1:4**
4. John appears to look at the effect (righteous living) to determine the cause. What is it? **Vs 29**
5. Why does salvation involve turning away from sin rather than just an intellectual assent to the facts of the gospel? **Matt 4:17; Mark 6:12; Luke 5:32; 15:7**
6. What did Dr. Bright mean when he said, "There is no such thing as a happy (habitual) sinning Christian?"

Note: Vs 6 - Jesus said that those who "abide" in Him—draw near to Him, listen to His words, and obey them—would bear "much fruit," something that glorifies the Father (John 15:5, 8). Fruitful believers have the power to avoid sin.²

7. How did John (like Jesus) show that he believed in the reality of the devil? **Vs 8**
8. If Christians are not supposed to sin, why do we continue to sin? **James 1:14-15**
9. How does a Christian not become stricken with shame or guilt after sinning? **1 Jn 1:9**
10. If Christians can sin and be forgiven, why not sin? **Rom 6:15** (also see question # 6 above)
11. How do Christians know if they sin? **Rom 7:7** What is the standard? **1 Jn 5:13**
12. How can Christians overcome (not) sin? **Luke 22:31-32; 1 Cor 10:13; John 17:15; Heb 2:18; 2 Cor 5:17**

APPLICATION

How can you be fruitful, confident and unashamed if Christ suddenly appears?

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1997). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (770-771). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

² Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (1 Jn 3:6). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.