

Sermon Handout

Sin and the Gospel

I John 3:4-7

I. Sin is the Rejection of God's Authority v. 4

- a. Adam & Eve rejected God's authority in favor of their own Gen 3:11
- b. Sin is ubiquitous among mankind Gal 3:22a; Rom 5:12; 3:23; Eph 2:1-3
- c. God alone defines righteousness and, therefore, sinfulness
 - i. Sin = lawlessness v. 4
"Sin is setting oneself in opposition to God's standards."
 - ii. To reject God's standards is to reject his authority
- d. God came in the flesh to destroy sin and remove it from us v. 5
cf. Gal 3:22b; Rom 5:17; Eph 2:4-6
- e. The evidence that we are Christ's is our rejection of sin and our embracing righteousness. vv. 3, 6

II. Rejecting God's Authority is Incompatible with Christianity

- a. Sin in the Christian is being rooted out and put to death v. 6
 - i. Sanctification must be progressing in the Christian
 - ii. Without it, the vision and knowledge of God are not present
- b. Jesus is in the process of sanctifying & cleansing his people Eph 5:26f
- c. The church is to be made holy and without blemish I Jn 3:2; Eph 5:27
- d. John warns against dividing the soul & body *cf.* v. 10
 - i. He who ***practices*** righteousness is righteous
 - ii. It is not about what we "feel" - it is about how we act

III. Practical Implications - Submission to God's Authority

- a. Members obeying the Elders Heb 13:17; I Pet 5:1-6
- b. Wives obeying their husbands Eph 5:22-24; Col 3:18 *cf.* I Cor 11:2, 8-9
- c. Children obeying their parents Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:20 *cf.* Ex 20:12; Dt 5:16
- d. Employees obeying their bosses Eph 6:5-8; Col 3:22ff *cf.* I Tim 6:1-3
- e. Citizens obeying civil authority Rom 13:1-7 *cf.* I Tim 2:1-3