

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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“DEALING WITH SIN”

Series #5- Genuine/Confident Christianity

1 John 1:5-10

We have learned thus far that John is writing this general epistle to warn the church about false teachers and John is teaching us that we must **walk the walk** and not **just talk the talk**. John purpose in writing this letter is to Present Fellowship (**V-3**), to Promote Joy (**V-4**) and to Prevent Sin (**V-5**).

We don't hear much about sin any more in the modern church, but the beloved John was very concerned about this important matter so in our scripture passage he is teach us about **DEALING WITH SIN**. From the Garden of Eden to now, men have sinned and continue to sin. Every person is born in sin, and we all have a sinful nature. That sinful nature is drawn to sin, and it is our natural propensity to sin.

John makes it clear that Christians do not *have* to sin. “I am writing these things unto you *that you may not sin*” (**1 John 2:1, NASB**).

The secret of victory over sin is found in the phrase “walk in the light” (**1 John 1:7**).

How do we deal with sin? What does God require from us concerning our sins? John taught the church a strong lesson about the reality of sin and how to deal with it. Through God's word we can be conscious of the reality of sin, and we can claim the remedy for sin. That sinners would know about their sin, turn from it and turn to Jesus. That saints would stay in close fellowship with the Lord and His people by repentance. This is not a popular topic in the world today, but a message that must be resounded from the church of God. The Bible gives us some clear ways that we must *Deal with Sin*.

I. WE MUST RECOGNIZE OUR SIN. (V. 8)

Notice the contrast between “saying and doing”. Three times John writes, “**If we say**” (**1 John 1:6,8,10**). It is clear that our Christian life is to amount to more than mere “**talk**”; we must also “**walk**,” or *live*, what we believe.

It is impossible for us to know God without first recognizing our sin. Whenever God deals with a person's heart about their sin, we must not **deny, distort, or delay**.

To have no sin conveys the idea that the person does not believe that he carries any sin at all. **Romans 3:23**, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” The Bible says in **verse 8** that we deceive ourselves. We are deceived by sin, by Satan, and by ourselves.

The first step in the process of dealing with our sin is found in **verse 8** and it is *to recognize our sin*; in **verse 9** we learn:

II. WE MUST REPENT OF OUR SIN. (V. 9)

(A) There Is a Procedure. (V. 9a) “if we confess our sins”

The word “confess” actually means ‘to say the same thing about.’ To confess sin, then, means to say the same thing about it that God says about it. We must confess our sins and through repentance turn to Jesus Christ in faith.

(B) There Is a Promise. (V. 9b)

God is faithful to his promises and John teaches us here under guidance and direction from the Holy Spirit that there is a clear promise to all who will lay hold of the procedure that God has mandated.

Forgive: means to *send forth or send away*. This word describes the act of canceling a debt and the restoration of the debtor. **Forgiveness** frees us from the punishment of sin and cleansing frees us from the pollution of sin. **Cleanse** - means to make clean or to cleanse. This word refers to making the forgiven sinner holy so that he is able to have fellowship with God.

We do sin, but we don't sin willfully and deliberately. God wants His children to be in fellowship with Him and to be obedient to Him. When we confess our sins He promised to cleanse us from all “unrighteousness”. Unrighteousness: mean ‘wrongdoing.’

In **verse 8** we learned **that we must Recognize our sin**; in **verse 9** we see that **we must Repent of our sin**; and lastly we see in **verse 10**:

III. WE MUST RENOUNCE OUR SIN. (V. 10)

(A) A Deceived Confession. (V. 10a)

Many today have a false profession, they have a deceived confession, they have professed Christ, but they do not possess Christ.

(B) A Desolate Condition. (V. 10b) “and His word is not in us.”

The mark of a true believer is not being without sin but rather of being consciousness of sin! The result of having God's light in our hearts is that it reveals any remaining darkness.