

# The Gospel of John

Lesson #78  
The Journey  
Jim Hoffman

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## The Gospel of John

• John 8:34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. 38 I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

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## The Gospel of John

- Jesus starts with, “everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin”.
- There is a new degree of sinning introduced here by John – he will use this word, (practices) “poy-eh’-o” again when he writes 1<sup>st</sup> John.
- The word is a verb and, among other things, means to “celebrate” – to make an act a “practice” is to seek it, to identify with it, and to be identified by it. (skiing)

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### The Gospel of John

1<sup>st</sup> John 3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

1<sup>st</sup> John 3:9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

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### The Gospel of John

“John sees the enmity of God against the devil as absolute. It lies at the heart of God's commitment to rescue the human race from the devil's clutches. God will destroy the devil and all his works, including those children of the devil who accept sinning as a way of life.”

The Expositor's Commentary

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### The Gospel of John

• **“everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin”** (John 8:34)  
– practicing sin alienates us from God and further solidifies our identity as a sinner.

• The one who **“practices”** sin is not a Christian and his habit of sinning only serves to further entrap him in whatever the behavior may be.

• He struggles to escape but is locked in by friendships, and habits, and a desire to sin that is greater than any desire he may have to obey God.

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### The Gospel of John

We've all had people in our lives that confounded us – they claimed to know Christ, but there was so much about them that was incompatible with being a believer that we were never fully convinced one way or the other. We wanted to believe them, we wanted them to be saved. It is frustrating because if we ask them, "are you a Christian?", or "do you know the Lord?", they answer in the affirmative, and, on some level, they might even believe they are saved. At times their behavior would look Christian. But then just as many times they would engage in things that seemed to clearly mark them as being lost. So, what should we do? It is my opinion that you treat them as a brother or sister in Christ and pray for them as though they are lost. Lacking the ability to know their soul so clearly that we can know for sure, what else can we do?

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### The Gospel of John

It is okay to be skeptical of "professors" whose lives do not match up with their claims to be Christians. The early church didn't let professors worship with them until they had confidence they were truly born again by witnessing their lives for a time. They did not want unbelievers in their times of worship because the professor may gain a false assurance of a salvation they did not have. Their policy was "lost until proven otherwise".

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### The Gospel of John

- Since all Christians sin, John must be talking about a continuing action because he says, "he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God."
- Most of us have seen someone who professed faith in Christ, lived like a saint for a while, then fell away.
- And we want to know – was that person saved or were they just invested emotionally for a time?

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**The Gospel of John**

- If you want to know if someone’s faith is saving faith, we are told what to look for – is sin their practice?
- We must go back to the meaning of the Greek word John uses, “poy-eh’-o” – translated as a “practice”.
- The question to ask is – do they celebrate their sin, do they put themselves in position to commit sin, and do they seek to be defined by it?

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**The Gospel of John**

- In our day we do not have a “Liar Community”, but we do have an “LGBTQ+ Community” – a group that wants to be identified by how they engage in sexual activities.

**LGBTQ+: A Diverse and Vibrant Community**

The LGBTQ+ community is a **diverse group of people** who identify with non-heterosexual or non-cisgender identities and expressions.



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**The Gospel of John**

- All believers sin, but no believer practices sin because (according to 1<sup>st</sup> John 3) he has been born of God.
- So how I can be sure the sin that plagues me is not a sin that I “practice”?
- The questions to ask are – do I celebrate my sin, do I put myself in a position to commit it, and do I seek to be defined by it?

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### The Gospel of John

“As the salt flavors every drop in the Atlantic, so does sin affect every atom of our nature. It is so sadly there, so abundantly there, that if you cannot detect it, you are deceived.”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

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### The Gospel of John

• John 8:35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

• You may recall from our last lesson that the “Jews” claimed they had never been enslaved – except for all the times they were! ☺

• Slaves had no standing in the family that owned them and had no basis on which to appeal their lot in life. 14

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### The Gospel of John

“A slave has no security, for he can claim no family ties that entail an obligation toward him. The son of a family has permanent status within it. Jesus enlarged this analogy by stating that while a son is rightfully a partaker of family privileges, the Son can confer such privileges. The hope for real freedom does not lie in the ancestry of Abraham but in the action of Christ.”

The Expositor’s Commentary

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### The Gospel of John

- John 8:37 I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.
- Think of it – here are some of God’s elect people who have, as a nation, been favored and blessed in peculiar ways, who have no room for the actual truth about God.
- They had a “leg up” as it were, but still had nothing more than a casual interest at best in knowing the One who had so blessed them.

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### The Gospel of John

As Christians, we too have been blessed. As we look at the Jew of Jesus’ day we may think, “after all God has done for you why is your interest in him nothing more than rituals, and habits?” We should ask ourselves, what is my interest in Jesus and spiritual things? Is my interest casual at best? We know that when we die, we want the continuing blessing of God, but for now we will settle for a clear conscience and peace with God. What if God does not want a “peace deal” with us? What if he wants a full surrender to a life that can and will be used for his glory?

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### The Gospel of John

- “you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.”
- Jesus uses the phrase above to point to their end – there was no place in their minds or hearts where his words could germinate and grow.
- Because his words were not received there was no place for faith to grow and so they grew further away from him with each encounter.

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### The Gospel of John

- John 8:38 I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father. (the devil was speaking to them)
- Jesus will now use strong words to show the contrast between who he is and who his adversaries are.
- He has seen things with his Father and they have heard things from their father, the devil.

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### The Gospel of John

- We have here the exposure of the original “misinformation” campaign that began in the garden of Eden. (did God say?)
- The enemy and his hordes come at all of mankind with lies and deceptions that are well crafted and tested for the last 6,000 years.
- So how are Satan’s lies delivered to humans?

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### The Gospel of John

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 21:1 Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel. (to incite is to - allure, instigate, entice)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:25 God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. (all activities that transpire in the mind)

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### The Gospel of John

- Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- John 13:2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him.
- Ephesians 4:26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and give no opportunity to the devil.

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### The Gospel of John

- Be careful about the voices you hear in your head – not everything that passes through your mind is from God.
- You may think “I am a child of God so the voices I hear trying to influence me must be the Holy Spirit”.
- 3 of the 5 scriptures I gave you on the last (2) slides were written to Christians.

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### The Gospel of John

- John 8:39 They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, 40 but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. 41 You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” 42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.”

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## The Gospel of John

• John 8:43 Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. 46 Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? 47 Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God." 25

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Questions?

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