

Study Guide: 1 John: Lesson 55

March 25, 2026

This study guide examines the biblical principles found in 1 John 3:4-10, focusing on the fundamental incompatibility between a life in Jesus Christ and the practice of sin. It explores the distinctions between the children of God and the children of the devil, while addressing modern theological errors regarding the nature of salvation.

Part I: Short-Answer Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in two to three sentences based on the provided text.

1. According to the lesson, what is the core theme of the section of scripture spanning 1 John 3:4-10?
 2. How does the Apostle John define the nature of sin in verse 4?
 3. What is the significance of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster analogy used in the lesson?
 4. How does the lesson describe the relationship between John MacArthur and the teachings of Dallas Theological Seminary in the late 1980s?
 5. According to the text, what are the three specific things "Easy Believism" claims are not necessary for a believer's life?
 6. Describe the two "territories" or families mentioned in the lesson and how a person is identified with one or the other.
 7. What was the central emphasis of the Gnostic heresy that infiltrated the early church?
 8. Why does the speaker believe that a "prayer of salvation" alone does not guarantee a person is saved?
 9. In the context of the lesson, what purpose does the First Epistle of John serve for the local congregation?
 10. What is the speaker's critique of the "Word of Faith" movement regarding its theological foundations?
-

Part II: Answer Key

1. The core theme is the Christian's incompatibility with sin. This section of scripture serves as a foundational teaching to help believers determine who a true Christian is based on their relationship with righteousness and lawlessness.
2. The Apostle John defines sin as lawlessness, stating that "sin is lawlessness." He explains that Jesus Christ was manifested specifically to take away our sins, and because there is no sin in Him, those who abide in Him do not continue to practice it.
3. The Chernobyl disaster serves as an illustration of how "toxic radiation" has polluted the soil and groundwater of the modern evangelical movement. This pollution represents a debilitating approach to the Gospel that obscures the true relationship between a Christian and sin.
4. John MacArthur acted as a mentor who challenged the "falsehoods" taught at Dallas Theological Seminary by writing *The Gospel According to Jesus*. He sought to address the pollution in evangelical circles and return to the actual preaching of Jesus Christ regarding salvation.
5. "Easy Believism" erroneously suggests that no turning from sin (repentance) is required, no spiritual fruit is guaranteed, and no personal commitment to Jesus Christ is necessary. It claims that a believer can even lapse into a state of lifelong carnality or permanent spiritual barrenness while remaining secure.
6. The lesson states there is no "gray" area; one is either a child of God or a child of the devil. A person is manifested as a child of God if they practice righteousness and love their brother, whereas a child of the devil is identified by the practice of sin and a lack of love.
7. The Gnostics emphasized that true religion was exclusively a matter of the mind and "elevated knowledge." They believed the physical body was irrelevant and that their "esoteric knowledge" was sufficient for salvation, completely divorced from their physical behavior or conduct.
8. The speaker argues that if a person prays a prayer but then returns to their old way of life without change, they are not saved. True salvation must be accompanied by a life-changing transformation, an initial level of obedience, and the emergence of a "new creature."
9. The Epistle of John acts as an "anti-toxin" to the destruction and pollution in the evangelical church. It provides specific moral and doctrinal tests that allow a congregation to validate a profession of faith and remove false teachers who confuse the community.
10. The speaker asserts that the "Word of Faith" movement has the wrong God, the wrong Christ, and the wrong Holy Spirit. He claims that while they may get minor

things right, they are fundamentally wrong on the most important doctrines, rendering their profession something other than true Christianity.

Part III: Essay Questions

1. Analyze the distinction the Apostle John makes between "committing sin" and "practicing righteousness." How does this distinction serve as a diagnostic tool for spiritual health?
 2. Discuss the dangers of "Easy Believism" as presented in the lesson. How does this theology contrast with the biblical requirement for repentance and the "perseverance of the saints"?
 3. Examine the historical and modern parallels between Gnosticism and the "Word of Faith" movement. How does the elevation of "experiential knowledge" over sound doctrine affect the witness of the church?
 4. Explain the "Test of Sound Doctrine" mentioned in the text. Why is having a correct understanding of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) essential for salvation?
 5. Reflect on the speaker's statement that "Jesus Christ did not die on the cross so you could... have a life of sin." Based on the source context, describe the intended purpose of the crucifixion in the life of a believer.
-

Part IV: Glossary of Key Terms

- **Antichrist:** A term used by the Apostle John to describe false teachers who perpetrate teachings that ignore or manipulate the Word of God.
- **Apostates:** Individuals, as described in the Book of Jude, who have fallen away from the true faith and spread heresy.
- **Carnal Christianity:** An erroneous theological concept suggesting that a born-again person can continuously live like the unsaved in a state of lifelong carnality.
- **Easy Believism:** A philosophy claiming that one can accept Jesus Christ and be saved without any requirement for repentance, obedience, or a change in lifestyle.
- **Hospice:** A state of care for those close to death, mentioned in the context of prayer requests and spiritual counseling.
- **Lawlessness:** The biblical definition of sin; a state of living in opposition to the laws and nature of God.
- **Lordship Salvation:** The theological position (defended by John MacArthur) that recognizing Jesus Christ as Lord is an integral part of saving faith.

- **Manifest:** To be clearly revealed or made obvious; the text uses this to describe how the children of God and the children of the devil are identified by their actions.
- **Repentance:** The act of turning away from sin and toward God, which the speaker identifies as a necessary component of the Gospel.

Part V: Greek Terminology

The following Greek-derived terms were utilized in the lesson to explain the origins of certain biblical concepts:

Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Gnostics ¹	<i>nos-tiks</i>	A group believing that salvation is achieved through esoteric or "elevated" spiritual knowledge (<i>ginosko</i>) rather than faith and conduct.
Hypocrite ²	<i>hip-uh-krit</i>	Originally referring to a stage actor wearing a mask; used biblically to describe someone whose actions contradict their stated beliefs.

¹ Derived from the Greek word *ginosko*, meaning "to know." ² Originates from the masks worn by actors in ancient Greek outdoor amphitheaters during dramas and comedies.