

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 57

April 8, 2026

This study guide is designed to review the core themes of the biblical analysis of 1 John and Romans 7, focusing on the distinction between true believers and those who merely profess faith. The document examines the internal struggle with sin, the role of the Holy Spirit, and the transformative power of the New Covenant.

Quiz: Short-Answer Questions

1. **The Internal Struggle in Romans 7:** How does the Apostle Paul describe his personal dilemma regarding his desire to follow the Law of God versus his actual behavior?
2. **Affirming the Law Through Repentance:** According to the lesson, how does a believer demonstrate that they value and affirm the goodness of the Law even when they have failed to keep it?
3. **The Concept of Direction Over Perfection:** What is the primary difference between a "possessor" of faith and a "poser" when it comes to the presence of sin in their lives?
4. **The Purpose of Divine Chastening:** Why does the speaker argue that God's commandments and His practice of chastening His children would be purposeless without the presence of the Holy Spirit?
5. **Satanic Deception and Spiritual Health:** In what ways does Satan attempt to deceive individuals regarding their spiritual condition and their understanding of religion?
6. **Characteristics of a "Minimalist Gospel":** What elements are typically missing from a "minimalist gospel," and why is this version of the message considered dangerous by the speaker?
7. **John's Doctrinal and Moral Tests:** Describe the two types of tests the Apostle John provides in his epistle to help believers identify a true Christian.
8. **The Evidence of Transformation:** According to the transcript, what should a person's life provide as evidence if a true transformation or "new birth" has actually occurred?
9. **The Promises of Ezekiel 36:** What specific internal changes does God promise to perform within His people under the New Covenant as described in the Old Testament?
10. **The Guardian's Responsibility:** Why does the speaker feel it is necessary to not only proclaim the Word of God but also to act as a "guardian of the truth" in the current ecclesiastical climate?

Answer Key

1. Paul describes a conflict where he loves the Law of God in his "inward man," yet finds another law warring in his members. He expresses frustration that he often does not practice the good things he wills to do, but instead does the very evil things he hates.
2. A believer affirms the Law when they are heartbroken, grieved, and repentant over their sin. This sorrowful reaction proves that they agree the Law is holy, just, and good, even if they have momentarily violated its precepts.
3. The distinction is not found in absolute perfection but in the direction of one's life. A true believer does not practice sin habitually or in an unbroken pattern, whereas a non-believer lives in a state of ongoing lawlessness and indifference to God's will.
4. God's commands and chastening assume that the believer has the capacity to obey through the Holy Spirit. If humans were entirely incapable of obeying the Law, there would be no purpose for God to chasten them or provide epistles full of instructions for conduct.
5. Satan seeks to blur the reality of a person's salvation by convincing them they are spiritually well when they are not. He may promote the wrong religion or a distorted, "minimalist" understanding of the right religion to capture souls for eternity.
6. A minimalist gospel lacks requirements for repentance, confession, submission, obedience, and righteousness. It is dangerous because it teaches that a person is saved without requiring any change in conduct or adherence to foundational doctrines.
7. John offers doctrinal tests, which examine what a person believes about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and moral tests, which examine whether a person's conduct reflects the righteousness of God or the behavior of the world.
8. The speaker asserts that the truest expression of a saint's inner person is the manifestation of righteousness. If there is no evidence of a dramatically altered relationship to sin, it is assumed that no transformation or regeneration has taken place.
9. God promises to cleanse His people from filthiness, replace their "stony heart" with a heart of flesh, and put His Spirit within them. This internal renewal enables them to walk in His statutes and keep His judgments.
10. The speaker emphasizes that the Word of God must be protected from false teachers who have been planted by the adversary. Because many today are "jettisoning" doctrinal and moral requirements to fill church seats, the truth must be guarded against dilution and bad doctrine.

Essay Format Questions

1. **The Dual Nature of the Believer:** Discuss the theological implications of Paul's statement, "It is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me." How does this distinguish a Christian's struggle from a non-believer's lifestyle?
2. **The Role of the Law in the Life of Grace:** Based on the source context, explain why a Christian is no longer under the "dominion" of the Law yet still has an obligation to love and obey it.
3. **Critique of Contemporary Church Trends:** Analyze the speaker's concerns regarding the "expanding acceptance of a minimalist gospel" in America. How does this trend impact the church's ability to discern true salvation?
4. **The Necessity of Regeneration:** Using Ezekiel 36 and 2 Corinthians 5:17, evaluate the argument that salvation is an act of total transformation rather than a mere emotional or spiritual experience.
5. **The Doctrine of Perseverance:** Explain the speaker's view on the relationship between true conversion and the ability to persevere in the faith until the end, including the role of the Holy Spirit in this process.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Aba Father:** A term of endearment and relationship used by believers to cry out to God after receiving the Spirit of adoption (NKJV).
- **Carnal:** Belonging to the flesh or worldly nature; used by Paul to describe the part of him sold under sin.
- **Chastening:** Divine discipline or correction intended to bring a believer back into alignment with the Law of God.
- **Doctrinal Tests:** Standards of belief regarding the nature of Jesus Christ and the work of the cross used to verify true faith.
- **Habitual Sin:** An unbroken, relentless pattern of sinful behavior that is incompatible with the life of a regenerated believer.
- **Lawlessness:** The characteristic state of the unsaved, defined by a rebellion against and a lack of desire for the Law of God.
- **Minimalist Gospel:** A version of Christianity that eliminates the necessity of repentance, doctrine, and moral obedience in favor of inclusion and tolerance.
- **Moral Tests:** Standards of conduct and behavior used to determine if a person's life reflects the righteousness of God.

- **New Covenant:** The saving agreement initiated by Jesus Christ where God provides a new heart and puts His Spirit within the believer to enable obedience.
- **Propitiation:** (Refers to Propitiation) The sacrificial work of Jesus Christ as an advocate who satisfied the requirements of God on behalf of sinners.
- **Regeneration:** The act of being "born again" or made into a "new creation" through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **Slaves of Righteousness:** The new status of believers who have been freed from the slavery of sin to serve the purposes of God.