

Study Guide: 1 John Lesson 58-Our Incompatibility with Sin

April 15, 2026

This study guide explores the theological foundations of 1 John 3:4-10, focusing on the transformative nature of salvation, the distinction between justification and sanctification, and why habitual sin is incompatible with a true relationship with Jesus Christ.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. According to the document, what fundamental change occurs when an individual is truly regenerated and transformed in Jesus Christ?
 2. How does the Holy Spirit influence a believer's conduct according to the New Covenant promises in Ezekiel 36:26-27?
 3. Where does God place His law under the New Covenant, and how does this affect the believer's internal desires?
 4. Why does a Christian experience "immense grief and agony" when they fall into sin, according to the analysis of Romans 7?
 5. Distinguish between the "forensic" concept of justification and the reality of sanctification as described in the text.
 6. What is the specific meaning of the Greek word *airō* in the context of Jesus Christ appearing to "take away sins"?
 7. According to Titus 2:14, what was the purpose of Jesus Christ giving Himself for His people?
 8. What does 1 Peter 2:24 state regarding the relationship between the death of Jesus Christ and the believer's daily walk?
 9. Explain the phrase "no one who abides in Him sins" in the context of the Greek present tense used in 1 John 3:6.
 10. What was the specific purpose of the manifestation of the Son of God in relation to the devil?
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Answer Key

1. When an individual is saved and regenerated, they become a new creation in Jesus Christ. This is not merely a superficial change but a total transformation where the old nature is replaced by a new nature.
2. The Holy Spirit operates through the believer's new nature to cause them to walk in the statutes of God. This internal empowerment ensures that the believer keeps the judgments of God and performs them as part of New Covenant theology.
3. Under the New Covenant, God puts His law in the minds of believers and writes it on their hearts. This creates a new heart that naturally longs to obey and delights in the law of God.
4. A Christian grieves over sin because their truest nature loves the law of God. Although they struggle with unredeemed flesh, their new disposition—energized by the Holy Spirit—drives them toward righteousness and away from sin.
5. Justification is a forensic declaration of being just through the imputation of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Sanctification is the real, internal change and separation from sin that follows justification.
6. The word *airō* indicates that Jesus Christ did not come merely to cover or forgive sins, but to lift them away or remove them entirely. This implies an active purging of sin from the life of the believer.
7. He gave Himself to redeem His people from every lawless deed and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession. This purified people is intended to be zealous for good works rather than continuing in sin.
8. It states that Jesus Christ bore our sins in His own body on the tree so that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness. This highlights that salvation results in a practical change in how one lives.
9. In the Greek present tense, this refers to continuous, habitual action characterized by defiance and persistence. It means a true believer cannot live in an unbroken, habitual pattern of rebellion against God's law.
10. The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. This destruction applies to the devil's influence in the believer's life here and now, replacing the works of darkness with the righteous life of Jesus Christ.

Essay Questions

1. **The Nature of New Covenant Transformation:** Discuss the biblical shift from external law-keeping to the internal writing of the law on the heart, referencing Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36.

2. **Justification vs. Sanctification:** Analyze the argument that salvation is both a legal declaration (forensic) and a practical transformation. How do these two concepts work together in the life of a believer?
 3. **Union with Christ and Death to Sin:** Based on Romans 6 and Galatians 2:20, explain how being "joined to the Lord" necessitates a departure from a lifestyle of sin.
 4. **The Character of the Devil vs. the Character of God:** Contrast the "origin" of sin as found in the devil with the righteous life manifested by Jesus Christ. How does this distinction serve as a test for true faith?
 5. **The Warning Against Deception:** Examine why the apostle John warns believers "let no one deceive you" regarding the practice of righteousness. What are the modern implications of claiming salvation without a change in conduct?
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Glossary of Key Terms

- **Ablative of Source:** A grammatical term used to describe the origin or source of something; in this context, it refers to whether one's actions originate from God or the devil.
 - **Eschatological:** Relating to the ultimate destiny of humanity or the "end times"; the text notes that Christ's work is not only for the future but has immediate effects.
 - **Forensic:** A legal or judicial term. In theology, it refers to God's legal declaration that a sinner is righteous because of the work of Jesus Christ.
 - **Imputation:** The theological concept of "crediting" something to someone's account. Specifically, the believer's sin was imputed to Jesus Christ, and His righteousness is imputed to the believer.
 - **Justification:** The act of God declaring a sinner righteous based on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
 - **New Covenant:** The spiritual agreement established by God through Jesus Christ, characterized by internal transformation, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the writing of God's law on the heart.
 - **Regeneration:** The spiritual rebirth or "new birth" where God provides a new heart and a new spirit to the believer.
 - **Sanctification:** The ongoing process of being made holy and separated from sin, where the believer is purified and becomes zealous for good works.
 - **Transformation:** The real, internal change that occurs at salvation, making the believer a "new creation."
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Greek Language Reference Guide

Greek Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Brief Definition
<i>Oida</i>	OY-dah	To know, understand, or perceive, often through deep experience. [^1]
<i>Phaneroō</i>	fan-er-OH-o	To be manifested, to appear, or to be made visible. [^2]
<i>Airō</i>	AY-roh	To lift up, remove, or take away. [^3]
<i>Poieō</i>	poy-EH-oh	To do, to make, or to practice. [^4]
<i>Ek</i>	ek	Out of, from; used to indicate source or origin. [^5]

[^1]: Used in 1 John 3:5 to describe the believer's experiential knowledge of Christ's appearing. [^2]: Frequently used to describe both the first and second coming (manifestation) of Jesus Christ. [^3]: Used to describe the Lamb of God who "takes away" the sins of the world. [^4]: Refers to the "doing" or "practicing" of sin or righteousness as a pattern of life. [^5]: Describes the "source" of a person's behavior; one who practices sin is "of" (*ek*) the devil.