



# GROWTH GROUP SERMON CURRICULUM

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Assured | Sunday January 5, 2020 | 1 John 3: 4-10

“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.” –1 John 3:9

## FROM THE TEXT

- Read 1 John 3:4-10. What common language is John using in this passage that he also has been using throughout the earlier parts of his letter? (examples: practice sinning, born of God, abide in Him, Children of God.) What do you think is John’s purpose in using this kind of repetition?
- Verse 10 says that “...whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God...” What do you think it means to “practice” righteousness? What does it not mean?

## FROM THE SERMON

- The following definition was given for understanding the term “Practice Sinning” from our passage:
  - Habitual. You keep going back to it, like a dog to it’s vomit.
  - Casual attitude (not trying to fight it, not caring what sin even is).
  - Also: Not actively pursuing righteousness.Is the above definition helpful to you? How does this definition make the reading of our passage clearer to understand?
- The important distinction was made between public sins (ones others can obviously see) and private sins (ones that are in our heart and hidden to others). Can you think of examples from the life of Jesus where he narrows in on the “private sins” of peoples hearts? (example: Jesus and the Pharisees in Matthew 23: 23-28)

## FOR YOUR LIFE | APPLICATION | ACCOUNTABILITY

- Pastor Andrew gave a great explanation of sin as lawlessness saying: “Sin is doing what we want, when we want, how we want, sometimes, many times even knowing what God, or his law might say about it. Sin is anarchy. In this sense, sin isn’t just missing the mark, or falling short of perfection. Sin as lawlessness is not even trying to hit the mark.” What does this explanation remind you of as you think about your own life and experiences? When can you point to spiritual anarchy in your own story? How did God lead you out of this?
- How does centering ourselves on the gospel help us fight against sin? What should be the motivations for a Christian to choose Jesus over their sin (because both bring pleasure)?

## PRAYER FOCUS

Confess sins that we know of in our life. Things that we have been doing for awhile or maybe just recently. Repent and believe in the gospel afresh. Receive grace. Take this brand new start to practice righteousness and abide in God again!