

# North Wilmington Bockrath Fellowship Group

March 20, 2004

---

## 1 John 3:4-10 (NIV) – *Away With Sin!*

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

<sup>7</sup>Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup>He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. <sup>9</sup>No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup>This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

---

### Questions for Discussion:

1. How does John capture and describe the essence of sin in this section (vv. 4 & 8a)? How do you, as a Christian minimize sin's real and threatening presence in your life? How do John's words change your own perspective of sin and perhaps motivate you to strive all the harder for holiness?
2. Why (per vv. 5 & 8b) should Jesus Christ affect your sinfulness? (ie. Why is sin incompatible with someone claiming to follow Jesus?) Do you have a specific sin in your life that you need to confess or break?
3. Taking into consideration 1 Jn 1:10, John cannot be affirming here that a Christian really can be sinless. However, his words are rather strong in vv. 6 & 9 of this section. Is there any room for error for the Christian or must he never sin? What basic reason(s) does he give in these verse for why a Christian should be sinless?
4. Given these "tests" John provides, how can we apply them practically? In our lives? In examining others?