

1 John 5 - Part 7  
What is the Sin that leads to Death? And other questions  
09/11/2022

*1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV) Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*1 John 5:1- 5 (ESV) Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

**Questions:**

1st) What are God's commands?

*1 John 5:2 (ESV) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.*

- How many commands are there in the bible? 613
- What about the 10?

*2 Cor. 3:7-8 (NIV) Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?*

*1 John 3:23 (ESV) And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.*

- Your desires change
- You'll want to please God

*Titus 2:11-14 (NIV) For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.*

- Like a mirror, the law shows us our problem, but it doesn't fix our problem. The law cannot generate what it commands
- Only Jesus can fix our problem

2nd) How can I know I'm saved?

*1 John 5:13 (ESV) I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*

- The Christian who struggles with the assurance of his or her salvation is actually struggling with feelings... versus facts

*1 Kings 19:11-12 (NIV) "The Lord said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper."*

- Grace is a function of God's love; it is not based on our actions or behavior
- As a Christian, your natural desire is to please God—even when you continue to mess up and to struggle—not because He will punish you if you don't please Him, but because of His great love for you
- Our obedience comes from freedom... not freedom from obedience
- The evidence of your salvation is found in your desire to please God

*John 17:3 (NIV) Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

3rd) What is the sin that leads to death?

*1 John 5:16b (ESV) There is sin that leads to death;*

- Thus, "Sin that leads to death is deliberate refusal to believe in Jesus Christ, to follow God's commands, and to love one's brothers."
- John is not describing a sin that can be committed accidentally or even in a moment

*Matthew 12:31-32 (NIV) And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.*

*1 John 5:16a (ESV) I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death*

4th) What are idols?

*1 John 5:21 (ESV) Little children, keep yourselves from idols.*

- There are more idols in the world than there are realities.
- His question shows he believes there are techniques for inheriting eternal life.
- Jesus is showing him that the law can save no one because the law can be kept by no one
- Jesus loves us when we don't get it, when we rebel, when we rely on our own selves and not him. He is the picture of perfect, patient love
- Your idol is whatever you rely on to justify your existence
- We are all guilty of loving something more than God, so Jesus turns the law on us, too

- He was freaking people out so they would know their need for a Savior

*Mark 10:26 (NIV) "Who then can be saved?"*

*Mark 10:27 (NIV) Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."*

- An idol is anything that is more important to you than Jesus

5th) Why did God make bears if he knew they would be mean to man?

*Gen 1:1 (NIV) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

*Gen. 3:13-14 (NIV) The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.*

- When man fell, bears fell
- When man fell the curse happened

*Gen. 3:16 (NIV) To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children.*

*Gen. 3:17-18 (NIV) "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.*

- It's God's grace in your life.
- Do you see? Jesus didn't give us what we deserved. He gave us the gift of forgiveness and life and grace.
- He gave us the gumball when we deserved to sit out and stew in our sin.
- It didn't take an angry mom's lecture to turn the heart of my complainer that day.