

“How to get rid of warts” (Tom & Huck)

1. Dip your hand in *spunk-water*
2. Cut a bean in half
3. Take a dead cat to a graveyard

**Any true solution must
address the real problem**

The background features a dark, starry night sky with numerous small, bright yellow and white stars. Overlaid on this are large, flowing, ethereal waves of light. On the left side, there are vibrant orange and yellow waves, resembling fire or a sunset. On the right side, there are deep blue and purple waves, resembling a nebula or a starry field. The waves flow horizontally across the frame, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Eternal Life

A Study of 1 John

Review - 3:1-3

- Because of His great love, God calls us *children*
 - And He has actually made us His children!
- But we are not yet completely like His Son, though some day we will be
- In the mean time, our goal should be to be pure, just as He is

(3) And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

(7b) the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

(4) Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

(8a) the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning.

(5) You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

(6) No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

(8b) The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

(9) No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

1 John 3:4-6

- *Practicing Purity*

1. The Seriousness of Sin
2. The Purpose of Christ's Appearing
3. The Application of Abiding

1. The Seriousness of Sin

- What is *sin*?
 - *Missing the bullseye*
 - The bullseye is *holiness*: righteousness, goodness, truth, Christ-likeness, *Light*
 - We fall short of God's perfect standard
 - In Christ we have what we need to succeed, but we have to choose and follow through

1. The Seriousness of Sin

- What does it mean to *practice* sin?
 - *Doing on a continual, habitual basis*
 - As a way of life; pursuing it as a goal
- This is incompatible with purity, which is why we are to purify ourselves (3:3)
 - Look for sinful habits and turn away

1. The Seriousness of Sin

- “Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness”
 - Lawlessness - *“There is no law!”*
 - Sin is defiant rebellion against the will of God (see Gen. 3:1-7; Rom. 1:18-32)
 - When we sin we are acting as though God’s law doesn’t have anything to do with us

1. The Seriousness of Sin

- “the one who practices sin is of the devil” (8)
- The pursuit of sin is not simply disobedience, it is a *declaration of independence* from God and a *pledge of allegiance* to God’s enemy!
- Characteristic of “children of the devil” (10; cf. John 8:42-47)

2. The Purpose of Christ's Appearing

- “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
(John 1:29)
- “You know that He appeared in order to take away sins”
(1 John 3:5)

2. The Purpose of Christ's Appearing

- “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away **the sin** of the world!”
 - Guilt -> punishment
 - Propitiation (2:2)
 - Justification
 - Removal
- “You know that He appeared in order to take away **sins**”
 - Individual acts
 - Purification (3:3)
 - Sanctification
 - Replacement

2. The Purpose of Christ's Appearing

- “in Him there is no sin”
 - Jesus does not possess a sin nature; He is righteous (2:1, 29) and pure (3:3)
 - “is” – continuously: past, present, and future
 - He has no sins of His own to deal with so can handle ours (cf. Lev. 16:20-22; Isa. 53:6)

3. The Application of Abiding

- “No one who abides in Him sins”
 - *Abide* – remaining in the truth (2:24) and living it out (2:6)
 - *In Him there is no sin*, so walking in the same manner as He walked means we will not sin (cf. 2:1)
 - Habitual practice, not individual acts

3. The Application of Abiding

- “no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him”
 - *Sins* – as the overarching characteristic of life, not individual acts of sin (see 1:8-2:2)
 - *Seen* – by faith, through the apostolic testimony: manifestation of *Life* (1:1-4)
 - *Known* – by faith, demonstrated by obedience to His commands (2:3-6) -> *Life*

So What?

- Any true solution must address the real problem
 - *Purity* involves recognizing sin and turning away from it to pursue righteousness
- We are children of God, and we must act like it
 - Rebellion against God is incompatible with being a child of God (see 3:10)

So What?

- Any true solution must address the real problem
 - We must take *ownership* of our sin (1:8)
 - We must confess it, and trust Him for the cleansing we need (1:9)
 - We must keep His commands/pursue His righteousness (2:3-6; 29)