

## For Love & Against Sin

Introduction: Some folks maintain the two ideas mentioned above cannot be valued at the same time. For too many, speaking against sin is unloving. Not for John. In 1 John 3, he contends that both are essentials to the life of the believer. Let's consider his thoughts.

1. How has John handled these concepts in our first two chapters?
  - A. 1:9 – Confess our sins and God is faithful to forgive (love).
  - B. 2:3-4 – To know God is to keep his commandments.
  - C. 2:5 – To keep His commandments shows the love of God perfected in us.
  - D. 2:15-17 – Misguided love (love of the world) draws us toward sin.
  
2. Sin and the children of God do not mix. 1 John 3:4-9
  - A. Up to this point, great emphasis has been on obeying commandments. Remember the philosophy so dominant in his day.
  - B. Jesus came to forgive sin & live without sin. If we are his followers, we should live as far away from sin as is possible. (3:5-8)
  - C. Sin is “lawlessness”. Do I want to be thought as “lawless”?
  - D. Being “born of God” makes living in sin (continuous action) nonsensical.
  
3. John's sermon on “sin” is now connected with a “sermon on love”. 1 John 3:10-15
  - A. Verse 10 links the two concepts: Practice righteous (not sin) and love.
  - B. Cain and Abel demonstrate how the two ideas must work together. (3:11-12)
  - C. It's not what the world thinks of me (when I speak against sin) that is important. What should be important to me is that I love my brother. (3:13-14)
  - D. Not loving (or hating in the sense of ignoring his needs) my brother says that I am a “murderer”. (3:14-15)

Conclusion: It may be difficult for us to see how we can put equal emphasis on both concepts, particularly when we are well aware of our own sin. We would much rather talk about love than sin. I think John's point is that talking about either is of minimal value. What matters is what we are doing. Are we actively decanting sin from our “cup of life” *and* are we filling our life with acts of love? Both should describe us.