



If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

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. 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.

Perfection

1 John 1:8-10; 3:9-10

Discussion Starter (Choose one of these to get your group talking)

1. Have you ever heard someone make a claim that you believed to be false? How did you react? (Hopefully with more tact than was on display this past week in D.C.)
 2. Have you ever believed something to be true and later discovered it was false? How did that make you feel? How did others react to you?
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I. The meanings of “perfect”

- A. Look at these passages in the gospels where some translations use the word “perfect” (Matthew 5:48; 19:21; Luke 6:40).
 - (1) What is meant by the words use in these passages?
 - (2) What do they say about God and what it means to follow him?
- B. Look at these passages from the pen of Paul where some have used the word “perfect” in the translation (1 Corinthians 2:6; 2 Corinthians 12:9; 13:9, 11; Philippians 3:12, 15; 2 Timothy 3:17)
 - (1) What is meant by the words use in these passages?
 - (2) What do they say about God and what it means to follow him?
- C. Look at these other inspired passages where some translations use the word “perfect” (Hebrews 6:1; 10:14; James 3:2)
 - (1) What is meant by the words use in these passages?
 - (2) What do they say about God and what it means to follow him?

II. Be perfect! (some have believed the Bible says Christians are perfect in the sense of sinless)

- A. Read James 3:1-12.
 - (1) To whom is James addressing this passage? What does he say all of them do (3:2)?
 - (2) What action does he indicate all will find impossible (3:8)?
- B. Read 1 John 1:8-10, 2:1-6, and 3:1-10
 - (1) What is true of those who say they do not sin? What are some spiritual implications?
 - (2) From the context of the book, how would you interpret the statement in 3:9?
 - (3) What misinterpretations have you seen of these passages? Why does it matter?

Community Groups, Calendar, Classes, Outreach, and Prayer

- Community Groups are asked to again focus on the “empty chair”
- Begin now to identify those you’d like to invite to your community group
- If you are not in a community group, you may speak to Brian Grubbs about joining one

Sept 14 th (Monday)	Ladies’ Salad Supper (Susan Cockerham’s home @ 6:00 pm)
Sept 27 th (Sunday)	Guest Speaker: Roger Coffman
Oct 16 th (Friday)	Friday Night Sing (Grand Central, begins @ 7:00 pm)
Nov 6 th – 7 th (Fri/Sat)	Ladies Retreat (Reservations should be made by Sept 16 th)
Nov 13 th -14 th (Fri/Sat)	Young Adults Retreat

There have been some changes and additions to Grand Central’s **Bible Classes**

Sundays, 9:30 Adult (Auditorium)	Gospel Mandate of Evangelism	Fred Burrows	
Wednesdays, 10:15 Ladies	90 Days with One and Only	Linda Grubbs	
Wednesdays, 7:30 K-4 th Grade	Girls: Daughters of the King		
	Boys: Sons of the King		
	Ladies	Simplify & Spiritualize	Sallie Donovan Susan Cockerham
	College	Bible Study	Scott McFarland

Outreach

In the coming months there will be several opportunities to reach out to others through acts of kindness (Christmas project, etc.). Every day we need to be aware of opportunities God brings to us to share with the others the greatest of all gifts, the offer of forgiveness found in Jesus Christ.

Prayers

What does this Community Group need to pray about this evening? Will you include the Empty Chair? Are there specific needs that you’re aware of that the group can lift up to the Father?