

you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."

6:22 -- "But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life."

8:2 -- "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death."

We have become slaves of righteousness, enslaved to God, and have been freed from the sin principle by the righteousness principle communicated by the Holy Spirit to us at regeneration.

Because the righteousness principle has been communicated to us in such a way that it has become part of our nature (what we now are), John in his First Epistle can state with confidence that the true believer in Christ is one who is characterized by righteousness -- "everyone who practices righteousness is righteous" -- and that the one who has been born of God cannot practice sin, because God's seed remains in Him.

This great truth can be traced through John's First Epistle with the help of a charting of statements regarding the begotten-one's relationship to sin and righteousness.

Literal Translation of the Selected Scriptures

- 1:6 "If we are saying that we are having fellowship with Him and are walking in the darkness, we are lying and not doing the truth."
- 1:7 "But if we are walking in the light as He is in the light, we are having fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His Son is cleansing us from every sin."
- 1:8 "If we are saying that we are not having sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us."
- 1:9 "If we are confessing our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us the sins and to cleanse us from every unrighteousness."
- 1:10 "If we are saying that we have not sinned, we are making Him a liar and His word is not in us."
- 2:1 "My little children, these things I am writing to you in order that you may not sin. And if anyone should sin, we are having an intercessor with the Father, Jesus Christ (the) righteous."
- 2:2 "And He is the satisfaction for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."
- 2:3 "And by this we are knowing that we have known Him, if we are keeping His commandments."
- 2:4 "The one saying, 'I have known Him,' and is not keeping His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."