

GNCOMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

SERMON SERIES: "1ST JOHN"

SERMON TITLE: "NO PERFECT PEOPLE ALLOWED"

DATE PREACHED: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH 2018

PREACHER: CODY BALCH



•✎ SERMON IN A SENTENCE:

"Jesus took care of perfection so that we could be free to transform."

(use the questions you want to use, ignore the ones you don't want to use, and add any that you think would be good)

WARM UP QUESTIONS:

- ☞ Why do so many people feel like they have to be or appear perfect, even if they know that no one is perfect?
- ☞ How can the expectation of perfection inhibit true spiritual growth in someones life?
- ☞ How does the façade of "having it all together" really hurt spiritual growth?
- ☞ What has been of the greatest help in your quest for spiritual transformation?

◆ **Facilitator NOTE:** As you prepare ahead of time, look through the passages/questions below to help yourself prioritize the things that you definitely want to cover with the time you have available. You likely will not be able to cover all this material. Try to keep the studies to around an hour for the kids/kids helpers sake.

READ:

1 John 1:8-2:2 — "8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us. 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

- ☞ Why would anyone "claim to be without sin"? In other words, why would someone not believe that sin is even real? (hint: they don't

want to take any personal responsibility and accountability for their actions so that they can do what ever they want to do, guilt free.)

- 🗨️ v. 9 - Why is confession inherently difficult for most people to practice?
- 🗨️ Why is confession so important to spiritual health and growth?
- 🗨️ How would you describe the difference between ‘justification’ and ‘sanctification’? (“justification” is a “one-and-done”, while “sanctification” is an “ongoing process”.)
- 🗨️ In the passage above, Jesus is called “the Righteous One”, “Advocate”, “atoning sacrifice”, “faithful”, and “just”...describe what these names and descriptions mean to you when you hear them and think about what Jesus has done for your life.
- 🗨️ It says that Jesus was the atoning sacrifice not just for us, for the sins of the whole world. Do you actually believe that God really has enough grace for the whole world if everyone put their faith and allegiance in Jesus? If so, what does that say about the power and scope of God’s grace?

EXTRA VERSES (if desired):

Prodigal Son → **Luke 15:11-32** — “**11** Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. **12** The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. **13** “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. **14** After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. **16** He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. **17** “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! **18** I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ **20** So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. **21** “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and

against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ **22** “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. **24** For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. **25** “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. **27** ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ **28** “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. **29** But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. **30** But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ **31** “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. **32** But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

 How does the biblical story of the Prodigal Son connect with **1st John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Jesus Washes Feet (emphasis on verses 8-10) —> **John 13:11-32** — “**1** It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. **2** The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. **3** Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; **4** so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. **5** After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. **6** He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” **7** Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” **8** “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.” **9** “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

10 Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” **11** For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. **12** When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. **13** “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. **14** Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. **15** I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. **16** Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

-  How do you see Jesus making a distinction between “justification” once and for all, and the ongoing process of “sanctification” in verses 8-10?
-  What should this teach us about our own walk and relationship with Jesus?

TAKE THIS HOME WITH YOU “TAKEAWAY”:

-  How are you allowing God’s grace to afford you the opportunity to transform more into His image and character?
-  How can you tell your world about the Good News of Jesus...that He has enough grace for the sins of the entire world?

 Close in prayer.

MATCHING THEME IDEAS FOR THE KID’S LESSON:

- I’d encourage a worship time if possible (youtube works great {Lifetree Kids}).
- Ask them if they have any things in their life that they need Jesus’ help with, and then pray for the requests of the group.
- And feel free to ask any of the kids if they’d like to say a prayer for the group.
- **Read 1 John 1:8-10** — “**8** If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us.”

Ask the kiddos questions like:

- Who sins? (answer: Everyone!)
- Who is the only person who has never sinned? (answer: Jesus)
- Who does God forgive of all their sins? (answer: Everyone who comes to Him for forgiveness.)

Activity:

- Have them draw/color a picture of God forgiving them of all their sins.