

Assignment-1-Panom-Top-comments-Mike-Baran

Hi Panom,

You certainly chose a theologically interesting scripture and one that can be difficult to fully understand its meaning and intent. I also enjoyed thinking about the way you graded the different translations and thought your conclusion was very well expressed – “We all commit sins of weakness, but if [we] make it a lifestyle to the point that we are celebrating sinful behaviours, then we have identified ourselves as children of the devil.”

John also speaks about being “born again” in John 3:6-8 and I find this an interesting scripture to read in conjunction with 1 John 3:8-9 to help me unravel the intent of v.9 in 1 John 3. Here the Greek text tells us (in a literal translation) that the one in whom “the seed of God abides” that such a person “is *unable* to sin because of God he has been born.”

We are all flesh because we are all born from flesh (John 3:6) but we are also told that in the resurrection – when we are spirit because we are born of spirit (John 3:6) – that at that time we will be *unable* to sin because we will be divine beings with the fullness of the spirit of God (his seed in us). It seems to me that 1 John 3:8-9 is a story in two parts: v.8 talks about us as fleshly beings and v.9 talks about us as glorifies spiritual beings.

One thing that some translations don't highlight is that v.8 of 1 John 3 says (literally) that, “The one *practicing* sin is of the devil.” You highlight this in your concluding statement and so should all the translations. In the same way v.9 tells us that those who are born of God, because “God's seed abides in them,” such people “do not *practice* sin” and indeed are “*unable* to sin.” Not all translations bring this out.

In this life we cannot but sin – our human nature is weak and predisposed to sin – and so while in the flesh there is no chance that we will ever be “*unable*” to sin.

Thank you for choosing this scripture. I loved reading your comments and especially your conclusion. It was very well expressed.

All the best.
Mike Baran