

## **Children of God 1 John 2:28 – 3:10**

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practises righteousness has been born of him. See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practises lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

## **Children of God 1 John 2:28 – 3:10**

No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practises righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practise righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

## 1 John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence ...

Jesus is coming back.

“When” is unknown to them and to us  
but being ready is important

The good way to meet him- (with confidence now and then)



*Hebrews 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

This is an amazing possibility

## 1 John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

Jesus is coming back.

The bad way to meet him- (frightened and ashamed)  
Barely saved?



*1Corinthians 3:15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.*

## 1John 2:29

If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practises righteousness has been born of him.

Test the fruit for a sure diagnosis.

This is the **'If'** of argument – not of uncertainty  
Since you know ... you may be sure ...

We become like our Life-Giver  
We have been born again(from above) with a new  
kind of life unlike the old.

What does 'practise (doing) righteousness' look like?  
What does the Lord want us to do?



## 1John 3:1

**See** what kind of love the Father has given to us,  
that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

### **Take note and wonder !**

The Father loves you – it's a free gift to his children

Who calls us the children of God?

The Father does (*"I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty,"* 2 Corinthians 6:18).

The Son does (*He is not ashamed to call them brethren,* Hebrews 2:11).

The Spirit does (*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,* Romans 8:16).

## 1John 3:1

See what kind of love the Father has given to us,  
that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

### **Take note and wonder**

See the quality & quantity of his love – what kind - lavished

We have the privilege of his love

(We could have been saved but not adopted and given our new nature as his children)

But by his grace we have become ‘Children of God’

## 1John 3:1

See what kind of love the Father has given to us,  
that we should be called children of God; **and so we are.**

**Take note and wonder**

Children - Not just in name but in reality



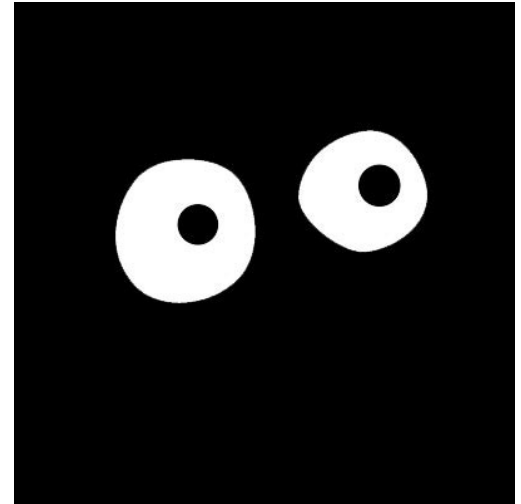


## 1John 3:1

The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

We get the same treatment from the world as he did because they don't have spiritual life –they don't know !

In what way does the world treat believers?  
We are seen as :  
having no value,  
a threat - and we are to their sinful ways



## 1John 3:2

Beloved, we are God's children now,  
and what we will be has not yet appeared;

Beloved – the blessed reality is now

**But just you wait!**

We will be something else! - but we are not there yet.



“What we are does not now appear to the world;  
what we shall be does not yet appear to us.” (Stott)

1John 3:2

but we know that when he appears we shall be like him,

We know - this truth is a basic part of our faith.

When he appears –

we shall be (changed to be ) like him  
because to be able to be with him means we need  
that new state of existence.



*For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren (Romans 8:29).*

## 1John 3:2

but we know that when he appears we shall be like him,  
**because we shall see him as he is.**

What will he appear like? (What he really has been all along)  
- glorious. Cf. The vision of Jesus in Revelation chapter 1

The ability to see him like that requires transformed eyesight!

*For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known (1Corinthians 13:12).*

*'And they shall see His face' (Revelation 22:4).*

## 1John 3:3

And **everyone** who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

This is a living principle for all believers ...

This way

Our hope is an expectant faith ON HIM. We want to be like him – pure  
So we get to work purifying by the Word + the Spirit + a renewed will  
This our part in this process of sanctification.

It is a continuing theme throughout the Bible –

*Leviticus 19:2 “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.*

## 1John 3:4

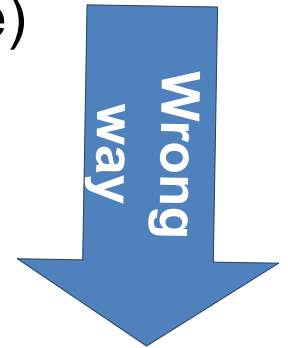
**Everyone** who makes a practice of sinning also practises lawlessness;  
sin is lawlessness.

Contrasting this to unbelievers (even if they claim not to be)  
'Practice' means an ongoing lifestyle of sin.

Their sinful actions are condemned by God as 'lawless'

Sin is opposed to God's will – as revealed in his law – it  
perverts, twists and opposes all that is right and lawful.

This gives us a clear and strong definition of sin.



## 1John 3:5

You know that he appeared in order to take away sins,

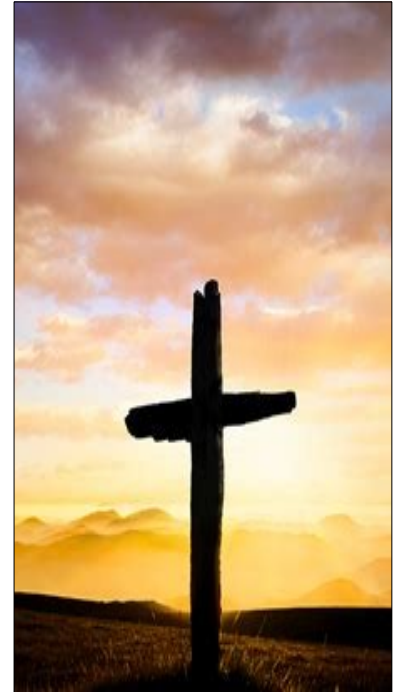
You know – is the basic teaching taken to heart.

He appeared (in his earthly life – the incarnation)

(This also implies that he existed before he appeared to us)

The primary purpose of his first coming was to deal with our sin issue.

He removes the penalty, the power, the pollution and ultimately the presence of sin in our lives.



## 1John 3:5

You know that he appeared in order to take away sins,  
**and in him there is no sin.**

His nature is sinless – so his coming was in order to restore the original but lost fellowship of mankind with God

This is a beautiful  
description of our  
perfect Saviour



## 1John 3:6

No one who abides in him (keeps on) sinning;

Saying it in a positive way – abiding stops you sinning



We sin (cf. Ch 1) but it is against our true redeemed nature now.

There can be no excuses – sin (secret or otherwise) is wrong.

## 1John 3:6

No one who abides in him keeps on sinning;  
no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

Saying it in negative way – sinning means not abiding in him  
There is no relationship at all if someone has not seen or known him.

**Nothing here**

## 1John 3:7

Little children, let no one deceive you.

John speaks as an affectionate guardian.

Children ( brothers and sisters).

Don't get taken in – deceivers are out there –

They say it does not matter about the way you live.



The word translated 'deceive' means to lead astray

1 John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in him,

John's essential theme – **abide** – persevere in living fellowship



## 1John 3:7

Little children, let no one deceive you.  
Whoever practises righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

It does matter about the way you live.

Life-style righteousness doesn't mean you are perfect yet but you are going in the right direction.

We want to be just like our Lord – he is perfectly righteous –  
hallelujah!

Jesus is our help, guide and role model.

“The ‘grace’ that does not change my life will not save my soul.”

*Charles Spurgeon*

## 1John 3:8

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil,  
for the devil has been sinning from the beginning.

The practice of sinning means a lifestyle of rebellion against God's will.

The devil is real and he has his followers.

The devil's fall occurred before man's fall cf. Genesis 3.  
His fallen nature **is** sinful – it continues as evil up to now.

## 1John 3:8

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

The reason the powerful, holy Son of God came was to begin a mission of destruction of the devil's works:

These works include:-

Deception – lies, false promises, misdirection of fulfilment  
Destruction- of God's work, his glory, - the creation and his creatures.

Jesus came to undo and reverse the damage.

## 1John 3:9

No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot (keep on) sinning, because he has been born of God.

Spiritual life that comes from God leads to a new nature  
(our old nature is not in control now)

The life seed (the Holy Spirit -resides – He does not come and go)  
and it grows to produce godly fruit -

The new nature CANNOT run against its design.

The present tense 'cannot' emphasises its continuing effect.  
He is not able to keep on sinning.



## 1John 3:10

By this it is evident who are the children of God,  
and who are the children of the devil:  
whoever does not practise righteousness is not of God,

John gives us a practical test – see the difference.  
Children – take the likeness of the parent

Practise righteousness?

This isn't simply religious activity – it's a life lived in  
love according to God's will.

Those who don't, do not belong to God's family.

## 1John 3:10

whoever does not practise righteousness is not of God,  
nor is the one who does not love his brother.

One important example – back again - The practical proof of a real faith and spiritual life is seen in our love for our brothers and sisters..

