

3 Johns Study Series
Study #3: Child of God or Child of the Devil
1 John 3:1 - 24
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

More lessons that John personally learned from Jesus as His disciple.

Who and what makes our hope in Jesus Christ a reality?

1 John 3:1-3

- 1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.
- 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
- 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

When we accept the gift of the everlasting covenant of Jesus Christ, we become the sons and daughters of the king of King. If we are sons and daughters of the King we are princes and princess that are part of the royalty of Jesus Christ!

Those of the world who do not accept God's gift have no hope and do not understand the joy of knowing and living in Jesus.

How does the Father reveal His love to us? This is recorded in the book of John. The most famous and quoted text in the Bible

John 3:16-17

- 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Go back to 1 John 3:2 – Son and Daughters Like the Father

Those who are sons and daughters of God, will be like their Father through the blood of Jesus Christ. Those who live in Christ will literally see the face of Jesus in all of His glory at His second coming. We will see that we reflect the image of His glory. Before we see Him face to face we MUST know Him and live by Him now.

Romans 8:14-18

- 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
- 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
- 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
- 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.
- 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

There is nothing to be compared to literally seeing the full glory displayed. All the turmoil and persecution on the earth will be worth it all when you see Jesus face to face in all His glory.

1 Corinthians 2:9

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

This is something to get extremely excited about! This is our hope! The worldly attractions and entertainments don't even compare to what God has in store for His people. Are you going to let the Devil's foolishness and take away what God has for you? Don't let the Devil take away what God has for you.

Titus 3:6-7

6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Going back to 1 John 3:3

All who have the HOPE in Jesus will do what? Purify themselves, through the pure cleansing power of Jesus and His Word!

2 Corinthians 7:1

1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Jesus reveals that there is no other substitute in order to be made pure no longer corrupted by sin!

How? What were the words that John records from Jesus in the gospels?

John 15:3

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

John 17:17

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

The Word has no power in your life nor does it purify you unless you OBEY EVERY Word.

Amen

1 Peter 1:22

22 Seeing ye have **purified your souls in obeying the truth** through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.

How does John clearly define sin?

1 John 3:4

4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

What is the main mission of Jesus?

1 John 3:5

5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

What will those NOT do if they abide in Christ?

1 John 3:6

6 Whosoever abideth in him **sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.**

How does Jesus explain this in the gospel book of John?

John 15:4-7

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

What distinguishes the children of God from the children of the Devil?

1 John 3:7-10

7 Little children, let no man deceive you: **he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.**

8 He that **committeth sin is of the devil**; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**

9 Whosoever is **born of God doth not commit sin**; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

10 In this the **children of God are manifest**, and the **children of the devil**: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

We MUST be born again through the WATER & the SPIRIT

John 1:12-13

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:5-7

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.**

If you are still struggling with sin, the Bible reveals that a re-birth spiritually MUST take place. The spiritual re-birth in Christ is only made possible by accepting the gift of the everlasting covenant.

This world is corrupt on the path of destruction. Those who are still corrupted with sin are miserable, without hope. They have NO peace. The re-birth experience in Christ will give you hope and a new LIFE. Old things will past away and ALL things will become NEW. If you have never experienced to

re-birth, today is the day to to say **“YES Lord, take me mold me and hold me! Reshape and transform me in the image of Christ.”**

Those who are born again are the children of God, they know the difference between righteousness and unrighteous, holiness and sin, purity and worldliness. They are NOT confused with the compromises that many churches practice today. Those born again know the difference between true health reform without the use of poisonous drugs and health deform! They know the difference between modest dress and worldly fashions and dress.

Those who are born again truly love others as Christ loves.

Why did Cain kill Abel?

1 John 3:11-13

11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him?

Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

This is the reason why the true people of God are persecuted and many killed because of the **“Cain attitude of hate”** from the hearts of the wicked. What we should hate is evil, sin, and worldliness.

What does the Bible call those who hate others?

1 John 3:14-15

14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

What does Jesus say about hating others?

Matthew 5:21-22

21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother **without a cause** shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

This also applies to all those who hate others just because of the skin color or nationality. This is foolishness. We are all made by God. No one person or group has superiority over another. Only God is superior and supreme.

How should we show the love of God to others?

1 John 3:16-17

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

One of the greatest display of compassion to others is to share the gift of salvation to our brothers and sisters. This is the main mission of Jesus Christ. His commission should be our mission to teach, preach, and heal!

Matthew 9:35-36

35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, **teaching** in their synagogues, and **preaching** the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing** every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was **moved with compassion** on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Is it enough to say you love others, but do nothing to show them the true love of Christ?

1 John 3:18-19

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

What will the doer look at and be blessed?

James 1:23-25

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

When we look at ourselves we have no desire to change and also forget our sinful condition, but look at that perfect law of liberty and continue we see our sinful condition and are cleansed by the Word.

Doing the works of God is the breath of faith

James 2:14-17

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Being a doer of God's word is the EVIDENCE of our faith in Christ!

Hebrews 11:1

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.

Our faith rest in the substance of our hope, but the work of our faith is the evidence that we cannot see. We cannot see Heaven now, but our actions reveal the evidence that we believe that Heaven exists.

“Heart” is the emotional response to our thoughts and decisions.

1 John 3:20-21

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

Remember our character is formed by our thinking, feeling, behavior, and habits. In 1 John 3:20 God is reminding us that God is greater than our thinking and feelings. If you want to change a condemning heart that keeps you in a state of corruption, what must you do? Change your thinking! When you know that God is greater than you, there is hope and confidence toward God!

What is the blessed results of changing our corrupt thinking to the mind of Christ?

1 John 3:22-24

22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because **we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.**

23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

24 And **he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him**, and he in him. **And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.**

What does Jesus say?

John 14:15, 21-23

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?

23 Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

Has this study of 1 John chapter 3 been abundantly clear?

Appeal – born again

Baptized by water and the spirit.

Baptism is a public ceremony of your re-birth experience in Christ Jesus. The old you is dead and risen in Christ.

Romans 6:3-4

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.