

# 1 John 3

## 1 John 3.1-10

**V1** – John shifts his theme more to the characteristics of love (but the Gnostic threat is always in mind)

-**What are we known as Christians?** Children of God

-**What caused us to be called “children of God”?** God adopted us because of love that he had for us

-John – *v 1b* – this title is correct – we are not just “children of God” in name

-**Why doesn’t the world recognize us?** Because the world never knew God, so Christians are from the downtrodden in the world

**V2** – **Does John know what we will be like with our new bodies?** No

-Interesting – not all is revealed – some surprises are left for us to discover in heaven

-**But what did John know?** We will be like God (Jesus) – we will see him as he is

**V3** – **What hope?** Of seeing Jesus

-**How will we see Jesus?** By purifying ourselves

**V4** – Again dealing with Gnostics

-**What does it mean to “practice” sin?** To violate the law of God

-In other words, all sin is terrible – we shouldn’t “wink” at some sins and say, “Well, everybody is human” – Examples: shoplifting, getting drunk, using drugs

-**Definition of sin?** A violation of God’s law

**V5** – **Purpose of Jesus’ coming?** To take sins away

**V6** – **Who does not sin today?** One who abides in Jesus

-Remember *1 John 1.7* – *If we walk in the light...*

-**In what sense do we not sin?** We are forgiven daily if we are walking in the light

**V7** – **Application to Gnostics?** What the body does really counts!

**V8** – We all sin from time to time, but we are not to practice sin

-**What does John say about person who practices sin?** He is from the devil

**V9** – Remember: all great people in the Bible had lapses into sin – Abraham, David, Peter, but they confessed their sin and asked for forgiveness

-To have to be perfect is a terrifying thought

-John: The child of God will not be a consistent and deliberate sinner – we will work on overcoming our sins; we won’t practice them

**V10** – Tests for child of God: not practicing sin and loving our fellow Christians

**V11** – More examples of loving each other

**V 12 – Frequently asked questions?** Why was Cain’s sacrifice rejected and Abel’s accepted?

**-Read Hebrews 11.4**

-Cain had a wicked attitude and heart

-Abel was righteous and had a pure heart

-V 12 – Cain hated Abel because Cain’s deeds were evil

-Evil people will hate good people, because good people make evil people feel guilty

## **1 John 3.13-24**

**V 13 – What should we not be surprised about?** If the world hates us - **Read John 15.17-19**

-V 13: only place in *1 John* where he refers to his readers as “brethren” – elsewhere: children, etc.

**-Significance?** Discussion of brotherly love

**V 14 – Explain?** “Passing from death into life” = becoming a Christian (being baptized)

**-Sign of our Christian faith?** Love for one another

-The final and greatest test of our Christian faith: loving one another in the church

-Learning to deal with problems without having the church explode

**V 15 – Why is hatred the same as murder?** People would commit murder if the opportunity came up

-For example, Cain hated his brother first, then killed him

**-Eternal destination for murderers?** They will be lost, if they do not repent (Rev. 21.8)

-Have any murderers ever been saved? Yes, the Apostle Paul and also Jeffrey Dahmer

-We must guard our hearts and not let hatred build up against someone (an opportunity to kill that person may arise)

**V 16 – What example of love do we have to guide us?** Jesus’ laying down his life for us (*John 10.11, 17-18, John 15.12-13*)

-Notice the contrast between Jesus and Cain – one killed his brother – the other died for his brothers and sisters

**-What does John say we should be willing to do if necessary?** Lay down our lives for fellow Christians

**V 17 – How often are we asked to lay down our lives for fellow Christians?** Hardly ever

**-But more practical application?** Brother in need

-Sometimes it is hard to get fellow Christians to accept help – it is often refused

-Great tact and decorum must be used (as in helping their children, etc.)

-If a family is too embarrassed to ask the church for money, the church can have a "pound party"

-Families bring a pound of sugar, a pound of flour, etc.

-John: Help one another with food and other necessities

**V 18 – What kind of love must we have?** In deed (another jab at the Gnostics)

**V 19 – Test to see if we are in truth?** The degree of our love for the brethren

**V 20** – Often people feel guilty about things that God has forgiven them for  
-People feel guilty that they are not perfect  
-John: Do the best you can and let the grace of God cover your imperfections

**V 21** – When our hearts (consciences) are properly trained, we have confidence before God

**V 22** – **Under what circumstances are our prayers answered?**

1. We keep his commandments,
  2. We do the things that are pleasing in his sight
- As Christians, we will not ask for things that we know are contrary to God's will

**V 23** – Two themes of John are really one: Jesus was the Christ (contrary to what the Gnostics were teaching) and we are to love one another

**V 24** – Summary

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