

# 1 John 3:1-10 Live Righteously

“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. [3] And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 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 practices 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 practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.” **(1 John 3:1-10 ESV)**

The evidence of those in Christ is the continual and habitual love for Christ and keeping of His commandments. Likewise, the evidence of those not in Christ is the continual and habitual love for sin.

We aren’t saved by works but by faith.

- We are saved by faith alone but not faith that is alone. (Martin Luther)
- Works and living righteously is the evidence of faith.
- That’s why James says, “I’ll **show** you my faith by what I do.”

When reading 1 John we always need to keep in mind John’s purpose in writing this letter.

- 1 John 5:13 - I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God **that you may know that you have eternal life.**
- He’s writing to give confidence to people.
- He’s writing to show what are the fruits of a believer.
- Here are the fruits of true believers:

Practice truth/righteousness (1:6; 2:29; 3:7, 10)

Walk in the light/as he walked (1:7; 2:6)

Confess sins and have forgiveness (1:9; 2:12)

Keep/obey his commandments/Word (2:3, 5; 3:22, 24; 5:2, 3)

Love one another/the brothers (2:10; 3:10, 11, 14, 16, 18, 23; 4:7, 11, 21)

Overcome the evil one/them/the world (2:13, 14; 4:4; 5:4)

Do the will of God/cannot keep on sinning (2:17; 3:9, 22)

Confess the Son/believe in Jesus (2:23; 3:23; 4:2, 15; 5:1, 4, 13)

**Verse 1** - It’s God’s love that makes us his children, not our effort. His love, He died in our stead when we deserved to die. His love, He lived a righteous/perfect life in our stead when we should have lived the righteous/perfect life. His love, He gave us eyes to see our sinfulness and the gospel “the reason why the world does not know us...” - this shows that there is a natural friction between believers and unbelievers.

**Verse 2** - Because we’re God’s children now, we’ll experience a glorified body to live eternally with Jesus.

**Verse 4** - “makes a practice of sinning” – The verb in the Greek conveys a habitual, continual and unrepentant lifestyle. Genuine Christians have a sin disposition (1:8), and do commit and need to confess sin (1:9; 2:1), but that is not the unbroken pattern of their lives.

“lawlessness” - The term “lawlessness” conveys more than transgressing God’s law. It conveys the ultimate sense of rebellion, i.e., living as if there was no law or ignoring what laws exist.

**Verse 5** - Jesus came to take away the ruling of sin over the believer (Romans 6).

**Verse 6** - “No one who **abides in him keeps on sinning**” – How can we who abide in Christ do that which is contrary to Christ?

“no one who **keeps on sinning** has either seen him or known him” – If you continually, habitually live in unrepentant sin as a way of life, that is proof that you have never seen or known God.

**Verse 7** - “Whoever **practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous**” – this phrase harks back to 2:29 which says: If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

**Verse 8** - “Whoever makes a **practice of sinning is of the devil**” – The side that you’re on as a continual unrepentant person is the devil’s. Not God’s. He makes the logical connection by showing you that you live just like the Devil who lives in constant, habitual unrepentant sin. John MacArthur says: “Since sin characterizes him completely, so everyone characterized by sin must derive from him.”

Here’s a conversation Jesus had with Jews who started to follow Him in John 8: They answered him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing the works Abraham did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing the works your father did.” They said to him, “We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father—even God.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil” – Jesus came for many reasons (ie. to pay for your sin, to absorb God’s wrath, etc.). Here we see that Satan’s accusations of our sin is delt with and the continual life of sin is destroyed.

John Piper likens Christ’s coming to the removal of sinners from Satan’s assembly plant of sin: Christmas is good news for God because Jesus has come to lead a strike at Satan’s assembly plant. He has walked right into the plant, called for the Solidarity of the faithful, and begun a massive walk out.

- Jesus’ death destroys our sinful living. It provides a way out of our habitual sinful lifestyle.
- “Knowing Christ means becoming involved in an all-out war against **the works of the devil**, that is, the **practice of sinning**”

**Verse 9** - It basically says, "Believer, you can't continue to sin. It's impossible. You're not able to because God's seed abides in you. MacArthur says: "The word abide conveys the idea of the permanence of the new birth, which cannot be reversed, for those who are truly born again are permanently transformed into a new creation" Study Bible: "The hearts of genuine Christians (those who are truly **children of God**) have been so transformed that they cannot live in a pattern of continual sin—though this does not mean that Christians are ever completely free from sin."