

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I John 3:1-10

Lesson 14

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I John 2:24-29. The results of *abiding* in the Word of God (*that which you have heard from the beginning* I John 2:24) and the wonderful provision of the anointing of God *abiding* in us (I John 2:27a) speaks of our being steadfast, remaining. Just as we have the promise of the Holy Spirit remaining in us, it is essential that we remain (abide) in the Word. What does this passage teach us is the result of *abiding* in the Word?
 - a. Why is it not necessary for believers to depend on human teachers to help them discern between truth and error?
 - b. We can *be confident and not be ashamed* at the coming of Jesus Christ. How is this possible? Jude 24 (25)
 - 1.) How do we cooperate with Him so we will have this I John 2:28 *confidence*? Jude 20, 21
 - (a.) Share practical ways we do this on a daily basis.
2. The mention of being *born of Him* In I John 2:29 leads John to a statement of the wonder of, God's love in I John 3:1. John continues in the next nine verses to remind us of the transformation that has occurred in the lives of those who belong to Christ. He contrasts the *children of God* with the *children of the devil*. Note and mark the paragraph divisions in this week's study and briefly state the key thought of each.
 - a. I John 3: 1-3
 - b. I John 3:4-10
3. I John 3:1 begins with the word *Behold*. As you begin this study, take a moment to *Behold* what it means to be a child (son) of God. Write a prayer thanking God for all that He has bestowed upon you. Ask Him to cause you to live your life. In an *attitude of gratitude* in reflection of the changes He has made and is continuing to make in your life. Ask Him also to grant you greater understanding of the awesome privilege of being called *children of God* (NAS). Then, express your desire to bring honor to your heavenly Father in response to His great love for you.

*Order my steps in Thy Word,
and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.*

Psalm 119:133

SECOND DAY:

Read I John 3:1

1. The first two chapters of I John deal with the *fellowship* with God and the *assurance* that a Christian has with God. Now, the last three chapters deal with the *sonship* (relationship) that a Christian has with God, his heavenly *Father*. What does John tell us to *Behold* in I John 3:1?
 - a. Write I John 3:1a in your own words.
 - b. See *how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God.* (I John 3:1 NASB) *Behold* (gaze intently) on this *great love* through the following verses:
 - 1.) Jeremiah 31:3
 - 2.) John 3:16
 - 3.) Romans 5:8
 - 4.) Relate a few of the ways God's love is different from that of the world.
 - c. List a few of the resources available to us *as His sons* (children).
2. One effect of the bestowal of God's love is that *we should be called the sons of God.* *Called* here means *named*. God has *named* us His children. He gladly claims us as His. *But as many as received Him, to them gave He power become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.* (John 1:12) When you think about a parent adopting a child, what are some of the privileges that parent is granting to that child?
 - a. What does it mean to you that God has adopted you and named you His child, allowing you to address Him as *Father*?
 - 1.) Write your birth announcement using I John 3:1 as your Birth Certificate.
3. The word *knoweth* used in I John 3:1c indicates the world does not *understand* us. Why does the world not *know* (understand) us?
 - a. How does this help you understand an unbeliever's reaction or rejection?
 - b. Being a *child of God* means that we share *the very nature of God*. What does II Peter 1:4 say about this?

- c. Since we share the very nature of God and the world does not know Him, explain as you would to a new Christian why they are experiencing rejection and feel misunderstood by those who are not believers.

The Love of God

*Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.
Selah*

-Lehman

THIRD DAY:

Read I John 3:2-3

1. *Beloved, now we are the sons of God...* this is a statement of assurance! *For His Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we really are God's children. And since we are His children, we will share His treasures - for all God gives to His Son Jesus is now ours too.* (Romans 8:16, 17a TLB) STOP! Meditate once more on the incredible love of God revealed in this verse. Then, take a moment to express in writing what it means to you to know that you are a Child of God.

2. Write I John 3:2 phrase by phrase. Underline or highlight what *we shall be* when He shall appear.
 - a. In all the rush, stresses, and busyness of your days, pause to linger here and gaze on the glorious future revealed in these words *we shall be like Him*. How does this comfort, encourage, refresh, renew, and bless you today?

 - b. How do the following scriptures confirm that one day we will be like Jesus?
 - 1.) Psalm 17:15

 - 2.) 1 Corinthians 15:49

 - 3.) Philippians 3:21a

(a.) According to I John 3:2c what will cause this transformation?

Challenge: Observe and briefly record who we are and what we shall be from Romans 8:14-23.

*What we are now is a guarantee, in a sense, of what we are going to be.
Our sonship is in itself a guarantee of our glorification because
God never starts a work and then gives it up.*

-Martin Lloyd Jones

He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ

-Philippians 1:6b

3. I John 3:3 speaks of *hope*. The *hope* of a Christian does not carry the same meaning as the definition that the world gives. It is not simply an anticipation of something that *might happen*. It is a confident expectation of something that we *know*, is going to happen. What a wonderful difference! Define in your own words *hope* from the above explanation.

a. What is the *hope* referred to in I John 3:3? (Answer from verse 2)

1.) What affect does this *hope* have on us?

2.) Look up the word *purify* in the dictionary. What does it mean to *purify* oneself?

3.) Who is our example of purity?

4.) What does II Corinthians 7:1 instruct us to do?

(a.) Observe this *purifying hope* from Titus 2:13, 14. Write the guidelines from Titus 2:(11) 12 that teach you how to walk in the light of that *hope*.

(b.) Share other scriptures that enable you to walk in purity.

4. A great weakness in the church is the failure to recognize *who we are* and *what we are*. John has been very careful to encourage the believers in an all they have because they have Christ. Identify *who* and *what* you are in Christ.

a. How does knowing who you are now and knowing that one day you will be transformed into the image of Jesus, not only have a purifying effect on your life but encourage you when the trials or failures of the moment seem so difficult?

*Keep us, Lord, O keep us cleaving to Thyself, and still believing,
Till the hour of our receiving promised joys with Thee.*

T. Kelly

FOURTH DAY:

Read I John 3:4-6

1. *Everyone who commits (practices) sin is guilty of lawlessness.* (I John 3:4a AMP) Define *sin* from I John 3:4b.

a. *Sin is more than a well-intentioned falling short of God's requirements. Sin is essentially anarchy, rejection of God's authority and active rebellion against God.* A habitual sinner - one who *practices* sin (verse 4) shows utter disregard for God's moral laws. What are the wages of sin? (Romans 5:23)

Challenge: How is *committing sin a transgression of the law?*

b. According to Romans 3:23 and James 2:10 who is guilty of breaking the law of God?

2. According to I John 3:5 why was Jesus manifested? (Why did He come?)
 - a. The Lord Jesus knew sin to be so evil, that He came into our world to suffer and die on the cross to redeem *us* from it. How should this affect the way we look at sin?
 - 1.) *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.* I Timothy 1:15 How does this verse and I John 3:5 encourage you in those times when you feel like you are the chief of all sinners?

3. I John 3:5 states that there is no sin in Jesus. Looking back to our study of I John 1:8 we learned that *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.* Jesus Christ is the only one who can claim to have no sin. What do the following scriptures reveal about Christ's sinlessness:
 - a. II Corinthians 5:21
 - b. Hebrews 7:(22) 26

4. In I John 3:6, the words *abideth* and *sinneth* are in the present tense. A verb in the present tense indicates a continuous, habitual action. The character of a person is revealed by his habitual actions, not the occasional ones. Therefore, the literal Greek translation is *everyone who in Him is constantly abiding is not habitually sinning.* This verse does not mean that Christians never sin. It means that they do not live a consistently sinful lifestyle, and... if and when they sin, they recognize it as sin and acknowledge their sin and confess and repent. Why would someone who is *abiding in Christ* not be living in a lifestyle of sin?
 - a. Recall what I John 2:14b says about this.

*This passage does not teach the impossibility of sin,
but the incompatibility of sin with our new nature.*

5. Print what I John 3:6b states about the person who is continually, habitually practicing sin.
 - a. Some Christians think that because salvation frees them from the penalties of sin, they can live any way they please. How does I John 3:6 refute that thinking?
 - 1.) What does James 4:(7) 8 tell you to do if you are tempted to believe this?
 - (a.) James 1:8 describes a double minded man as unstable in all his ways. How would this relate to Christians who believe they can live as they please?
 - b. How has *knowing Him* (Greek word is *gnosko*, to know by experience) kept you from a lifestyle of sin?
 - 1.) Share a practical example if not too personal.

*Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy.
Purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.*

-Doerksen

FIFTH DAY:

Read I John 3:7-10

1. Observe the striking contrast between the *children of God* and the *children of the devil* as you complete the following chart from I John 3:7-10:

Children of God	Children of the devil
vs. 7	
vs. 8	
vs. 9	
vs. 10	

2. Write the warning to the *little children* from I John 3:7a.

- a. The deception that was prevalent in the First Century church is also a problem in churches today. Pseudo Christians were trying to convince the believers that a person could be born again and still practice sin. How does John clearly counter that lie? I John 3:7b
- b. *Righteous* character expresses itself in *righteous* conduct. *Righteousness here means the righteous life which is the result of salvation through Christ.* How has a believer been made righteous? Romans 5:17-19 Use another version if you have one.

- 1.) If we have been made righteous how will we live our lives according to I John 3:7b?

Christians, aware that they are children of God and destined for heaven, will live lives of practical righteousness.

3. Compare I John 3:8a to John 8:44. How is the *devil* described?

4. How are those described who *commit* (practice) *sin*? (Again. the Greek verb tense here indicates continual sin.)

- a. Ephesians 2:2,3

- b. Colossians 1:21

5. According to I John 3:8b why was the *Son of God manifested*?

- a. The word *destroy* does not speak of annihilating, but rather to deprive of force, render inoperative. One day the devil will be cast into the Lake of Fire and forever banned from us and God. Until then, the devil has been loosed of his grip on the believer. According to the following verses, how has Satan's grip been loosed?

1.) Colossians 2:(13, 14) 15

2.) Hebrews 2:14b

6. I John 3:9 is written in contrast to verse 8. Just as the one who is of the devil cannot do righteousness, a true believer cannot commit (practice; live in a lifestyle of) sin. Matthew 7:18 declares *A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit*. According to I John 3:9b, why does one who is *born of God not commit (practice) sin*?

- a. The seed planted is a result of being *born of God*. What is the purpose of planting a seed?

1.) What is God's purpose for planting His seed in you? Support your answer with scripture, if possible.

7. I John 3:10 summarizes today's focus by proclaiming the difference between those who are *children of God* and those who are *children of the devil*. According to this verse, what is the difference?

- a. This verse can either strike terror to our hearts or fortify our assurance that we are God's children. Share how I John 3:7-10 fortifies your assurance,

The expression of Christian character is not good doing, but God-likeness. If the Spirit of God has transformed you within, you will exhibit divine characteristics in your life, not good human characteristics. God's life in us expresses itself as God's life, not as human life trying to be godly.

- Oswald Chambers

SIXTH DAY:

Review I John 3:1-10

1. In what way has I John 3:1a, 2 drawn you into a dearer relationship with the Father and the Son?
2. The world does not understand us. Family resemblance is sure to show. What did you believe about Christians or Christianity before you came to Christ that you now know is not true?

3. I John 3:3 has been called a quickening incentive to live a pure life. From the following scriptures, what should deter us from practicing a lifestyle of sin?
 - a. I John 3:1a
 - b. I John 3:2, 3
 - c. I John 3:5
 - d. I John 3:8
 - e. I John 3:9
4. Contrast the purposes and character of the devil with the purposes and character of Christ.
5. A child of God does not habitually commit sin. However, he will fall into sin occasionally. Pastor Chuck says, *Sinning is miserable for the Christian. We are what we are by nature. That's why we need a new nature.* Comment on this statement and how you have found it to be true in your life.
 - a. Heredity and environment mold children. As Christians we have the right heredity. How much does our environment influence or contribute to our purity?
6. How has the study of I John 3:1-10 assured you of the power you have to walk in righteousness and given you the desire to do so?
7. Write a sentence, a poem, or choose a song that expresses what it means to you to be called a child of God.

*O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee,
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art!
Come in Thy sweetness, Come in Thy fullness,
Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.
T. Chisholm*