

(1 John 3:1-10)  
“Counterfeit or Genuine?”

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “Counterfeit or Genuine?”
  - (1 John 3:1-10) NKJV.

~ INTRO ~

NOW...

- In chapters 1&2 John focused on the test of “fellowship.”
  - Because the **talk** of believers...
    - Was not matching the **lives** of believers.

AND IN THE BIGGER PICTURE OF THIS BOOK...

- Counterfeit Christians were trying to convince genuine Christians...
  - That a person could be saved and still practice sin.

SO... JOHN THE AGED APOSTLE...

- Grounds the church with some basic truths.

**We've learned** when a person says they're a Christian...

- It's biblically sound to EXPECT FRUIT (evidence to what they claim).
- However, if their life does not reflect Jesus...
  - We don't close our eyes in ignorance...
    - Rather we understand the person is lying! (Chp. #1 & #2)

**We've learned** that biblical fellowship is seen...

- In a life characterized by “*doing*” not just “*saying*.”
  - It's an active faith NOT a said faith.

(James 1:22-27) NLT.

AND FINALLY...

**We've learned** genuine believers are people...

- Who have accepted God's word.
- Who are no longer in love with the “*wants*” of the world.
- Who are growing in the faith.

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~STUDY~

HERE’S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN:

**IDEA #1 – THE FATHERS LOVE:** (vv.1-3)

IN THESE VERSES...

- John underscores the motivation of genuine belief...
  - And he ties it to **three things**:

a) **Who we are** (v.1) *Children of God...*

- (John 1:10-13) NLT
- (John 3:16-17) NLT

AND THE WORK OF GOD...

- Covers our entire lives.

NEXT...

b) **What we will be** (v.2) *We shall be like Him...*

(Phil. 3:20-21) CEV

*“... we are citizens of heaven and are eagerly waiting for our Savior to come from there. Our Lord Jesus Christ has power over everything, and He will make these poor bodies of ours like His own glorious body.”*

WE WILL HAVE RESURRECTED BODIES LIKE JESUS’!

- This does NOT mean a ghostly spirit like matter.

SO...

c) **How we should live** (v.3) *we purify ourselves...*

*Purify* [Grk. #48 = Hag-nid-zo]...

- We stay away from that which...
  - Defiles = Poisons us.

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- Spoils = Destroys our purity.
- Violates = Breaks fellowship with God.

(1 Peter 1:22) NLT

*“You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth...”*

## **IDEA #2 – JESUS APPEARED:** (vv.4-8)

JOHN GIVES TWO REASONS WHY JESUS CAME TO EARTH...

I. (v.5) He appeared to take away our sins...

(Rom. 14:23) “Whatever is not of faith is sin”

(Prov. 24:9) “The thought of foolishness is sin”

(James 4:17) “It is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it”

SIN...

- At its basic level is defiance against God.
  - Sin is an act of rebellion against Him...
    - Because it’s an assertion of our will above His.

JESUS SAVES US...

- From both the power & the penalty of sin!
  - When we come to Him / believe in Him / born again.

NOW... IN (v.7) JOHN GAVE THE CHURCH...

- Some sound insight into God’s way.
  - “*Little children, let no man deceive you!*”

REMEMBER...

- Counterfeit Christians were proclaiming...
  - That a person could be saved and still practice sin.

AND JOHN SAYS NO!!!

TODAY WE TOO... SHOULD UNDERSTAND...

- That any so-called church that proclaims God’s forgiveness...
  - Without repentance (change of direction)...
    - Is pushing the lies of the past!

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WHY?

II. (v.8) *He appeared to destroy the works of the devil.*

*This enemy has many different names in Scripture: Satan (adversary, enemy), the devil (accuser), Abaddon or Apollyon (destroyer), the prince of this world, the dragon... his chief activity is to oppose Christ and God's people.<sup>1</sup>*

**IDEA #3 – BORN OF THE SPIRIT:** (vv.9-10)

READ (vv.9-10)

(John 3:5-7) NKJV

WHEN A PERSON *Believes In Jesus*...

- The grace of God justifies the sinner... (justification).
  - And instantly there's peace with God!

AT THIS SAME MOMENT...

- The Holy Spirit gives a new nature...
  - By making the person spiritually alive.
    - This is called being born again (re-generation).
      - (2 Peter 1:3-4) NLT

AND FINALLY... AS A CHRISTIAN...

- God begins to sanctify this person... (sanctification).
  - Which means... being set apart for God's purpose.
    - You want to obey / serve / & follow Him.
- And growth in the faith begins to take shape.

THE SHORT STORY IS...

- A believer in Jesus has been given a new nature!
  - And to REMAIN in sin against God...
    - Is against that new nature.

SO... JOHN IS TELLING THE CHURCH....

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<sup>1</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, New Testament Commentary, (p. 985). Published by David Cook. Copyright 2007.

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- You cannot be born again...
  - And then live a life of “*practicing sin.*”
    - **It’s impossible!!!**

(1 John 3:9-10) NLT

**~ IN CLOSING ~**