

Book of 1 John—1 John 3

Love of Brethren

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

3:1... Behold, what manner of love—“The last verse of chapter 2 speaks of the saints as born of God. That thought suggests the wonderful love in allowing us to be born again and thus to become God's children” [B.W. Johnson, *The People's New Testament*].

children of God—“The essential kinship of humanity with the Creator is glimpsed in such a concept as this, as it is seen also in the great truth underlying the doctrine of the Incarnation. God would not have become a man, unless it had been true that man had been created in God's image. The most glorious truth the world has ever received is in this invitation or "call" of God to become his children” [James Burton Coffman's *Commentaries*].

3:2... when he shall appear, we shall be like him—“The glorious anticipation of being 'like him' should prompt us to utilize every faculty we possess in his service, and thrill us with the prospect of awakening in his likeness. ... The wondrous blessing which this promise includes—of being like him—should not be lightly regarded or passed over hurriedly. It is a summary of all the good things which the Father has in reserve for his own. There is a story often told of a group of heathen converts who, when they came to this verse in translating into their language, unable to believe that such could possibly be in store for sinful man, stopped and said, 'No! It is too much. Let us write that we shall be permitted to kiss his feet’” [Guy N. Woods, *A Commentary on 1 John*, p. 258].

3:3... even as he is pure—“By striving for the purity which the Lord possesses we reach for the goal which will be finally realized when he appears” [Guy N. Woods, *A Commentary on 1 John*, p. 259].

3:4... sin is the transgression of the law—“This verse teaches that sin is a personal refusal to be governed and circumscribed by divine law; instead, there is a setting of the human will against the divine will. Hence, sin involves a wrong attitude toward God's will and way. 'The set of the will' is involved. In sin, it is not a 'have thine own way, Lord,' nor 'my Father as thou wilt,' nor 'speak Lord thy servant heareth, command and I will obey,' nor 'not my will, but thine be done,' matter. Rather, it is 'what do I want...' Though overt acts are involved in sinning, sin is basically a matter of attitude toward constituted authority and law!” [Wendell Winkler, *Studying Sin Seriously*, pp. 14-15].

3:6... sinneth not—“The meaning of the verse is, he who has taken up his abode in Christ, and settled down to a permanent existence in him, has terminated his former manner of life and has ceased the practices then characteristic of him. He no longer engages in habitual and persistent sin. That he has broken the hold of sin in his life, and no longer regularly yields to evil impulses as a manner of life, is far from asserting that there are never occasional lapses into sin through weakness or ignorance (cf., 1 Cor 9:27; Ph 3:12). For these inadvertent lapses, a plan has been provided (1 Jn 2:1). ... Thus, in the study of this verse if we keep in mind that the verbs SEEN and KNOWETH, as here used, express RESULT, the meaning becomes clear. 'Whosoever continues to abide in him does not keep on living a life of sin; whosoever does keep on living such a life, does not see him or know him.' Obviously, one who has lapsed into a life of habitual sin, such as characterized him before his conversion, no longer sees (enjoys) God, nor knows (recognizes) God in his life” [Guy N. Woods, *A Commentary on 1 John*, p. 265-66].

- 3:7... he that doeth righteousness is righteous**—“To be righteous, one must practice righteousness as a settled habit in life. Such a one, the apostle affirms, is a righteous man; no other is” [Guy N. Woods, *A Commentary on 1 John*, p. 268]. This is a present tense, continuous action, verb.
- 3:9... for his seed remaineth in him**—“But why does the one begotten of God refrain from habitual and persistent indulgence in sin? Because his seed remains in him and he cannot sin. Whose seed? God's. What is God's seed? The word of God: 'The seed is the word of God' (Lk 8:11). In whom does this seed abide or remain? In the child of God. What does the word 'abide' signify? That the word of God has made its home, as it were, in the heart of the one begotten. Is this a scriptural concept? 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom' (Col 3:16), which we translate more vividly, 'May the word which Christ speaks to you have in your hearts in all its fullness its home.' What is the result of such? The child of God cannot sin” [Guy N. Woods, *A Commentary on 1 John*, p. 271]. Cf., Psalm 119:11; Mt 4:1-11.
- 3:20... if our heart condemn us**—“If, in spite of the assurances provided, we yet suffer the uneasiness which springs from the realization of our own weaknesses and the consciousness of our own imperfections, let us remember that God is greater than our heart; he knows all things; and he will deal with us, not according to our conscience, but in harmony with the eternal and unchangeable principles of right. Knowing all things, he knows us better than we know ourselves, and he will deal with us accordingly. Let us then not be disturbed by the promptings of conscience, but conform, as far as possible, to the standard of right, with the assurance that he will approve our course at the last day” [Guy N. Woods, *A Commentary on 1 John*, p. 284]. Another view: “If we have a troubled conscience because we have not kept the law of love, God, who is greater and whose condemnation is a far more serious affair, **knoweth all things** and seeth our failure in duty” [B.W. Johnson, *The People's New Testament*].
- 3:22... And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him**—“The promise of the passage is, of course, to be understood within the limitations of his promises regarding prayer elsewhere set forth: vis., that the prayer must be in faith, in confidence, according to his will, and in keeping with his instructions regarding prayer. The truly faithful child of God seeks ever to learn what the will of the Father is, even in matters pertaining to prayer, and does not ask for those things which he discovers to be contrary to the Father's will” [Guy N. Woods, *A Commentary on 1 John*, p. 285].

II. **ADVANCED STUDY (extra study posts)—Links to the WWW...**

From the following link you can study further aided by articles/outlines that relate to the study of 1 John 3.

<http://LemmonsAid.net/bsg/esp201.htm>

III. **Chronology.**

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Church.

IV. **Summary.**

What a blessing it is to have God as our Father and to be called “sons of God.” John reminds us of this relationship in the beginning of this good chapter. Knowledge of such a relationship OUGHT to motivate us toward purity as our Father is pure! John provides one of the Bible's definitions of SIN in this chapter (v. 4). If we do not notice the continuous action of the verbs in verses 6-9, we could twist the Scriptures to make them teach the impossibility of apostasy, which many do teach. However, the idea is that we do not continue in sin. We are urged to

love our brethren in the clearest of terms. Our love for brethren must be something that we demonstrate and not just speak. John helps us to see that we can do that which is PLEASING in the sight of God (v. 22), which ought to be our constant aim. Figuratively speaking, we can have Christ dwelling in us and we in Him by keeping His commandments.

V. Outline.

1. Sons of God (1 Jn 3:1-3).
2. What is sin? (4).
3. Jesus and sin (5).
4. Christians and sin (6-9).
5. Children of God versus children of the devil (10).
6. Love one another (11-18).
7. Assurance available in Christ (19-24).

VI. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ Lack of compassion demonstrates lack of love.
02. _____ Because the world did not know Jesus, they will not know Christians.
03. _____ It is not possible to please God.
04. _____ Psalm 119:172 helps to explain verse 7.
05. _____ We do not know WHY Cain slew his brother.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ Jesus was manifested for the purpose of: (a) our good; (b) taking away our sins; (c) we are not told.
07. _____ If we come to recognize that the world hates us, we should not: (a) fret; (b) worry; (c) marvel.
08. _____ HE in “when he shall appear” refers to: (a) Jesus; (b) God, the Father; (c) the Holy Spirit.
09. _____ The way to dwell in Christ and have Christ dwelling in us is to: (a) keep His commandments; (b) pray; (c) it is not possible.
10. _____ John teaches us that this person is righteous: (a) the one who seeks righteousness; (b) the one who does righteousness; (c) the one who prays for righteousness.

Fill in the Blanks

11. **Beloved, if our _____ us not, then have we confidence toward God.**
12. **My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in _____ and in _____.**
13. **...for sin is the _____ of the _____.**
14. The person who doesn't love his brother abides in _____.
15. _____ said: **Am I my brother's keeper?**

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to 1 John 1-2 Questions... [(1) True, 1 Jn 1:8; (2) True, 1 Jn 1:1; (3) False, 1 Jn 2:3; (4) True, 1 Jn 2:14; (5) True, 1 Jn 2:25; (6) b, 1 Jn 2:17; (7) c, 1 Jn 2:9, 11; (8) c, 1 Jn 1:6; (9) d, 1 Jn 2:16; (10) c, 1 Jn 2:18; (11) joy, full, 1 Jn 1:4; (12) confess, cleanse, 1 Jn 1:9; (13) denieth, 1 Jn 2:22; (14) seduce, 1 Jn 2:26; (15) liar, 1 Jn 2:4.]

VII. Lessons & Applications.

1. **that we should be called the sons of God** (1 Jn 3:1). The idea that ALL men are children of God is not found in Scripture. The Old Testament shows God as Father of His own people (Ex 4:22). The New Testament shows God as Father not of all men, but of those who become SPIRITUAL ISRAEL (Gal 3:26-27, 29). This is not a natural, but an ADOPTIVE sonship (Gal 4:4-5; Eph 1:5). Sonship is the supreme gift of God's love (1 Jn 3:1). Sonship is demonstrated by righteous living and brotherly love (1 Jn 3:10). Seeing Jesus and being like Him is the hope of this sonship (1 Jn 3:2-3). God's fatherly relationship to Jesus Christ implied four things: (1) Authority, Jn 6:38; 17:4; 4:34; (2) Affection, Jn 5:20; 15:9-10; (3) Fellowship, Jn 16:32; 8:29; (4) Honor, Jn 17:1; 5:22-23. All of these implications of the Father/Son relationship of God & Christ extend to God's adopted children—IN, THROUGH, and UNDER Jesus Christ our Lord. We are RULED, LOVED, COMPANIED WITH, and HONORED by our Heavenly Father. As Jesus obeyed God, so must we (1 Jn 5:3). As God loved His only begotten Son, so He loves His adopted sons (Jn 16:27). As God had fellowship with Jesus, so He does with us (1 Jn 1:3). As God exalted Jesus, so He exalts Jesus' followers as brothers in the one family (Jn 12:26). In adoption, God takes us into His family and fellowship, and establishes us as His children and heirs.
2. **sin is the transgression of the law** (1 Jn 3:4). One of the Bible's definitions of sin. Whenever the Bible tells us _____ IS sin, we must perk up and listen and be interested in the definition. Three other definitions are given:
 - (1) **For whatsoever is not of faith is sin** (Rom 14:23). SIN IS A VIOLATION OF THE CONSCIENCE. In the context of this passage the word FAITH is contrasted with DOUBT. Thus it is not referring to the body of doctrine as in Jude 3. This is faith in the subjective sense. The text is teaching that to believe something to be wrong and then to go ahead and do that thing that you believe to be wrong is to violate one's conscience and is thus sinful.
 - (2) **All unrighteousness is sin** (1 Jn 5:17). FAILING TO KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS IS SIN. Cf., Ps 119:172.
 - (3) **Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin** (Js 4:17). KNOWING TO DO GOOD AND NOT DOING IT IS SIN.
3. **Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not** (1 Jn 3:6). The idea here is of continuing to abide in Christ and such position is the position of not continuing to commit sin. It ties in well with the second epistle of John, verses 9-11. When we transgress or go beyond the doctrine of Christ, we no longer have God or Christ—it CANNOT be said that we abide in them. We must abide in Him, in the sense of living a faithful Christian life, continuing to follow the doctrine of Christ—living and remaining in it.
4. **Not as Cain...** (1 Jn 3:12). The example of Cain is held before us as one NOT TO FOLLOW. What was it that Cain asked: **Am I my brother's keeper?** (Gen 4:9). Yes, I am to have interest in my brethren—that is what love of brethren entails. We cannot say that we love our brethren if we love only in word or tongue (v. 18).
5. **...do those things that are pleasing in his sight** (1 Jn 3:22). To me it is a pretty exciting prospect to think about the possibility of PLEASING the God of Heaven! We have been so greatly blessed to be presented a book, the Holy Bible, the following of which will cause us actually to be able to PLEASE our Creator!
6. **And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us** (1 Jn 3:24). The Spirit tells us through the word that Jesus abides with his disciples (Mt 28:20).

VIII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

R F D V B G T Y H N M J U I K L L O P I
 L U N O T A S C A I N J M H N G O H Y T
 G O B V E F R E D C X S T Q N A V Z S X
 S W V E D T C V F R R E G I B N E N E M
 B G T E R F H V C D I W N S X Z O C Q A
 Z X C T D W R R F F V N B G T S N Y H N
 M J U O O Y H N I B I G T R F E E V L C
 D E W N S X Z R A G Q W S X D C A V A G
 B G K L Y G U B E B H V F I E D N C I X
 Z A Q E W P X B C D H T F R F V O B D N
 N J U V Y H E E A T X N E V H B T G D Q
 A Z X R S H C D E E O R F O T V H B O G
 T Y H A T H N D M C U I K L U O E Q W G
 A Z X M X S I W E D C V F R R S R T N G
 B N O M H B D Y U J M K I O T L N I P Y
 T R D L A W L E S S N E S S N C S E Q A
 F Z X S W E D C A V F R T G I A B G S T
 D E R F V B G T Y T N H Y U E Q A Z X S
 C G R E A T E R C D H R F L V F R T G B
 B G T Y H N M J U I O P P Q A Z X D R L

[The words (or word locaters) listed below are to be found in the text of our lesson. They also are found in the puzzle above. This is just one more way to reinforce what you have studied from the text. Why not read the whole verse where the word is found one more time as you do the puzzle? Thank you for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. Let's desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow (1 Pet 2:2). DRL]

1 John 3

LOVE, 1 Jn 3:1	DEATH, 1 Jn 3:14
SONS, 1 Jn 3:2	LAID DOWN, 1 Jn 3:16
PURIFIETH, 1 Jn 3:3	IN TRUTH, 1 Jn 3:18
LAWLESSNESS, 1 Jn 3:4	KNOW, 1Jn 3:19
ABIDETH, 1 Jn 3:6	GREATER, 20
DOETH RIGHTEOUSNESS, 1 Jn 3:7	CONFIDENCE, 21
FROM THE BEGINNING, 1 Jn 3:8	PLEASING, 22
LOVE ONE ANOTHER, 1 Jn 3:11	
NOT AS CAIN, 1 Jn 3:12	
MARVEL NOT, 1 Jn 3:13	

For a Crossword Puzzle covering the content of 1 John 3, click below...

<http://LemmonsAid.net/puzz/6203puz.pdf>