

Destroying the Works of the Devil – Part 3

Text: **1 John 3:1-10** - *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. v.2 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. v.3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*

v.4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. v.5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. v.6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. v.7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. v.8 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.

v.9 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. v.10 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) First Impressions: Is John crazy? Does he expect sinless perfection?

a) There are two sides to John's teaching on sin.

i) Sinless Perfection

(1) 1 John 2:3 - *And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.*

(2) 1 John 3:9 - *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.*

(3) 1 John 4:8 - *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

ii) Imperfect and Fighting against Sin

(1) 1 John 8-10 - *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. v.9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. v.10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

(2) 1 John 2:1 - *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

(3) 1 John 5:16 - *If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life—to those who commit sins that do not lead to death...*

b) We are **not** perfect, **not** sinless; we ARE born of God!

i) Ten times in the five chapters of John's letter he says we are born of God!

Because we are born of God, something will change inside of us. It is impossible for us to remain the same!

ii) In John's mind, what is impossible for the Christian, is a life of unchanged continuation in sin the same as when he was not born of God.

We can't take these verses to mean Christians don't sin at all. We should take them to mean that Christians don't go on sinning without conflict and confession.

Christians see it, hate it, confess it and fight it and they do so with increasing vigilance as they grow up into Christ. Why? ...because they are children of God!

1John 5:2 - *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.*

2) Powerful Expressions:

a) # 1 "Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil" (v.8).

i) Sin is not just an action; it is a power!

To sin is human, but to persevere in sin is not human, but altogether satanic.

Romans 6:12 NIV - *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.*

Romans 6:14 NAS - *For sin shall not be master over you...*

ii) How did Sin get its power?

(1) Satan's original act of lawlessness in ages past gave power to sin.

His sin deceived 1/3 of the angels and they were cast out of Heaven.

(2) Therefore all sin, of whatever kind or degree, is satanic in nature. This is because the devil has been sinning from the beginning (v.8). Sin originated with

Satan and his constant practice. To take part in sin at all is to take part in his activity.

b) #2 Jesus came to “destroy the works of the devil” (v.8).

i) Jesus destroyed the work of the devil when He destroyed the power of sin in your life!

Through His work on the cross, Jesus purchased us from the possession of Satan and made a way for us to be claimed by Father God!

Revelation 5:9 NIV - *And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation”*

ii) You are now, to God, as though you are His biological child. Because of His death, everything that was His has passed on to us.

When God sees you, He doesn't see a stranger; he sees His child.

3) This is the Christmas Message?

a) We are loved by God.

1 John 3:1, 2 - *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are... v.2 Beloved, we are God's children now...*

b) We are born of God.

i) Through Christ Jesus, we have been given a new life in God.

ii) Through Christ Jesus, we have been given a new nature.

(1) This new life is like a seed. It is powerful to produce something:

1 John 3:9 - *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.*

c) We are protected by Christ.

1 John 5:18 ESV - *We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.*

Look at this verse in the New Living Translation: 1 John 5:18 - *We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them.*