

2025-12-07

## **Why Jesus Came to Earth #2**

1 John 3:5-10

In this section of scripture, John states two important reasons why Jesus came to earth, to “*take away our sins*” (3:5) and to “*destroy the works of the devil*” (3:8). These reasons are given in the context of John teaching us how to tell who is a Christian and who is not. In John’s day there were many false teachers, some of them were even in the church (1 John 2:19). These false teachers were teaching people who claimed to be Christians that they could continue living their sinful lifestyle. John writes for all to read that what they were teaching is false. Jesus Christ demands that when **we confess Him as Lord, we change to be like Him** (Romans 10:9). From John’s perspective, which by the way is also God’s perspective, those who do not change, their unchanged life is proof that those people are not Christians. They do not know Jesus as Lord, they do not know God no matter what they say. A person’s changed life along with a true confession of faith in Jesus as their Lord reveals the truth. Even in John’s day, there were many people in the church that were being deceived by believing all the false teaching. Jesus came to reveal the truth. We are called to believe Jesus and let Him change us to be like Him.

**1 John 3:5** “*And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins and in Him there is no sin.*” Yes, Jesus came to take away our sins. This is basic Christian theology. Jesus came to die in our place, to pay our debt which we cannot pay. He brings us forgiveness for our sins. He also came to take our sins away, as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12). If our sins are taken away, how then could we continue to live in our sinful lifestyle? As a Christians, we cannot! For those who continue to chose a life of sinfulness, this reveals that they do not understand what it means to be a Christian. They do not know the holy, sinless God who calls people to leave their sinful lives to live a life of devotion to morality, purity, and holiness before God. In God there is no sin. We should strive to live a life without immorality, without lying, without drunkenness, without selfishness, without lust and without greed. When we live in these sins we are dead. Christians are people who have been made alive from these dead lifestyles (Ephesians 2:5). Through God’s mercy He unites us with Christ Jesus. We are to separate ourselves from these sins that only lead to death. We are to live united with Christ Jesus who is without sin.

**Verse 6** “*Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.*” A person can only abide with one spiritual being. Either you abide in Christ or you abide in the devil. Those who have a real union with the Lord Jesus Christ cannot keep on living a sinful life. Those who remain in Christ remain in a

covenant relationship with Him. They live in the Light that exposes sin. They live in the knowledge of true holiness that calls us to purity. They live in God's love that demands repentance and humility. When we read these words "*whoever sins*" they must be taken in the complete context of the letter. Remember what John wrote in the opening chapter. "*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us*" (1:8). "*If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us*" (1:10). "*If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth*" (1:6). John knows that we have a sinful nature. John knows that we will sin. When we sin, we are to confess our sins and receive God's cleansing (1:9). When we sin, we are to remind ourselves we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus the righteous One (2:1). Those who claim to know God and have fellowship with God cannot also walk in darkness which is living in sin. The two cannot coexist. Those who call themselves Christians and then turn around and live in sin are really liars. They do not practice the truth. They reject God's truth. When they reject God's truth, they are rejecting God. Those who live God's truth confess God's truth. They know God. They live in Him. Your lifestyle along with your speech reveals who you really are.

**Verse 7** "*Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. This verse goes along with verse 4, "whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."* Society allows us to do lots of things that God disapproves of. Just because society and that includes some of our friends say we can act a certain way does not mean God approves of us acting that way. Do not look to society to learn what is right and what is wrong. Look to God. He teaches true righteousness because He is true righteousness. Anything outside of righteousness is sin. We break God's law. Do not let society deceive you. Do not let the false teachers deceive you. Do not let your friends deceive you. Right living is found in knowing God and loving God. Remember, "*do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him*" (1 John 2:15). You want to know what is right? Let God teach you.

**Verse 8** "*He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*" Here is that second statement of why Jesus came to earth. **He came to destroy the works of the devil.** What are the works of the devil? From John's gospel writing, the devil is a **murderer** (John 8:44). Murder stems from hatred. The Jewish leadership hated Jesus and wanted Him dead (8:37, 40). The devil is also a **liar** (8:44). There is no truth in him. Twisting, manipulating the truth is not truth but a lie. What do you think, are the works of the devil destroyed? They seem to be increasing in the world. One day Jesus will cast the devil and his demons into the

lake of fire (Revelation 20:10). On that day, there will come an end to all the murders and lies in the world. What about you? **Are the works of the devil destroyed in your life?** The purpose of Jesus coming into the world is so He can destroy the works of the devil in your life. We just have to let Jesus do His work in us. He has given every believer the Holy Spirit. He is Holy for a reason, because He reveals the truth. Let the Holy Spirit destroy the devil's work in your life, the works of sin. Do not believe the lies of the devil. Believe God's truth. Stop the hatred. The devil with his lies and hatred cannot coexist with the Holy Spirit in our lives. **God has the power to cleanse us and destroy the works of the devil in our lives.** Christians will let God work in them. Whoever chooses to remain living in their sin is of the devil.

**Verse 9** *“Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.”* When God gives life to people who were dead in their trespasses and sins, we are born of God. We will not continue in these sinful lifestyles. God's seed, His Holy Spirit has been given to us so that we have the power to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to live soberly, righteously and godly in our present age. (Titus 2:12). When John said *“he cannot sin”*, he is not saying we never sin. He is saying we do not live with our sinful nature in control of our lives. When we are born of God, we have God's Holy Spirit. Jesus is our Lord and He is in control of our life. He will free us from our sinful lifestyle.

**Verse 10** *“In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest; Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.”* For John, it was not complicated. It is simple. How can you tell who are Christians, who are children of God and who are the children of the devil? Look at their lifestyle. Look at how they live daily. Look at what they practice. Do they practice what they preach? Do they love each other? Jesus emphasized loving each other (John 13:34-35).

The closer we get to God the better we know Him. The better we know God, the more we will know ourselves. The more we learn of God and ourselves the more we learn how righteous God is and how unrighteous we are. When we learn how unrighteous we are, we will learn how much more we need God's forgiveness. When we know more of God's forgiveness, we know more of His love for us (Romans 5:8). When we know more of God's love and forgiveness, we are able to love God more and be more obedient to Him (Luke 7:44-47). It all starts with knowing God. Do you know Him? Are you practicing His righteousness? (Matthew 7:23)

### **Questions to ask yourself:**

Do your actions show that you are born of God?  
Does your conversations show that you are born of God.  
Are you living a sinful lifestyle according to God?  
Are you practicing God's righteousness?  
Has Jesus taken away your sins?

### **Actions to take:**

Let Jesus take away your desire to sin.  
Spend more time in God's word. Study to show yourself approved (2 Timothy 2:15).  
Regularly examine yourself to see if you are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5).  
Test yourself to see if Jesus Christ is living in you.  
Do you love all of God's people in the church?  
Are you acting the right way towards them?  
If not, confess your sin. Do not leave the church. Learn to love  
Practice loving others. Put into practice 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.  
Let Jesus be Lord of your life. Remember Jesus chose Judas Iscariot to love.

*"Shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness."*  
2 Timothy 2:16

*"Avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife."*  
2 Timothy 2:23

*"The Lord knows those who are His. Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity!"* 2 Timothy 2:19

*"Pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."* 2 Timothy 2:22

### **Contact information:**

Pastor Daniel Fosnight  
**602-321-5629** talk or text  
email: [dfosnight@cox.net](mailto:dfosnight@cox.net)

Our mailing address is: Emmanuel Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1388, Sun City, AZ 85372

Our website is [ebsuncity.com](http://ebsuncity.com)

Our mission statement: **Spread the gospel of Jesus Christ;  
Teach believers to worship God; Foster growth in the Christian faith**

### **Join us for worship every Sunday at:**

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