

1 John 3:1-10 "Beyond Counterfeit Christianity"

July 11, 2021

I. God the Father loves us. 3:1-3

A. Verse 1 tells us what we are. We are God's children.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 3:1

"Behold, what peculiar, out-of-this-world kind of love the Father has bestowed on us." Wiersbe, Warren W.. Be Real (1 John): Turning from Hypocrisy to Truth p. 107

B. Verse 2 tells us what we shall be – we shall be like him.

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3:2

C. Verse 3 tells us what we should be – holy.

All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 3:3

II. God the Son died for us. 3:4-8

A. Christ died to take away our sins. 3:4-5

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. 3:4-5

1. When we accept Christ "Sin remains, but it no longer reigns." John Wesley

No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. 3:6

2. Those forgiven by Christ truly love Christ

B. Christ appeared to destroy the works of the devil. 3:7-8
Destroy means "to render inoperative, to rob of power."

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 3:7-8

III. God the Holy Spirit lives in us. 3:9-10

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. ¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister. 3:9-10

A. God's Spirit gives us the power to live holy lives

"The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you." Romans 8:11

B. We must choose to allow God's Spirit to empower us

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." John 3:8

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness." 2 Peter 1:3