

The First Epistle of John

(Week 31 – 1John 3:5-10 – Part 3)

I. REVIEW:

A. 1John 3:5-9

1. The true nature of lawlessness (the practice of sin)

a. It is contrary to the very mission and character of Christ

i. He came to destroy the works of the devil (1John 3:8)

ii. Those who abide in Him do not continue living in sin (1John 3:6)

iii. This does not mean a Christian never sins

1. cf. 1John 1:7, 9 and 1John 2:1

2. However, a Christian does not make lawlessness a way of life.

3. A Christian hates sin and will not justify nor love it!

➤ A pig and a sheep may fall into the same mud hole

a. The pig will love it, because that's its nature

b. The sheep will want to get out and avoid the mud hole next time.

➤ A child of God has a new nature (the seed of God in him!) – 1John 3:9

2. Let us discuss another truth regarding the nature of lawlessness...

II. SIN AND THE DISCIPLE: Part 3

A. The true nature of lawlessness (continuation)

1. It divides humanity into two classes: those who belong to God and those who belong to Satan

a. 1John 3:7-10 (ESV), *“Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as He is righteous. (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... (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.”*

i. *“Let no one deceive you”* (vs. 7a)

1. Whenever the Bible warns us not to be deceived, we need to perk up and pay attention!

➤ Deception is like a fisherman's bait: we think we are going to get what we want (a juicy meal) and we wind up becoming the meal!

➤ Many may say: *“I believe in Jesus”* but John says... *“whoever practices righteousness is righteous as He is righteous”* (vs. 7b)

2. **Question: How are people in “Christian” circles being deceived today?**

- In some churches, it is taught that you can get “saved” and live in sin; the outcome is you will lose your rewards but still enter heaven when you die! (cf. Ephesians 5:4-6)
- Cheap grace vs. changing grace (Titus 2:11-13; Jude 1:4)
- Even in the Lord’s Church:
 - a. Baptism without evidence of repentance
 - b. Ritualism
 - c. Spectatorship: Let the minister do all the work

b. The two classes

i. Children of Satan (vv. 8a, 10)

1. 1John 3:8a, “*Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning.*”

- This passage points us to the original fall of Satan
 - a. Most scholars believe that Isaiah 14:12-14, although, in context, is addressing the King of Babylon (vs. 4) is also a description of Satan’s fall
 - b. Five times the phrase “*I will*” is used in opposition to God’s will.
- The sinner says, “I will! I want my way! I will not submit to God’s way!”
- Therefore, whenever a person acts this way, they are committing the original sin of the devil!
- Note: The practice of sin can show itself in a nasty way: “*I will kill others to get my way*” or it can show itself in a pleasant way: “*I will be nice to others so that they can think highly of me*”
 - a. For Example: In 1Samuel 15, King Saul was told to destroy the Amalekites and everything that belongs to them.
 - i. Saul speared the sheep so that he may sacrifice to the Lord (1Sam. 15:15)
 - ii. Sounds honorable, but it was devilish!

2. Satan’s children do not demonstrate love for the brethren.

- 1John 3:10b, “*...whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.*”

3. Children of God (vv7, 9, 10)

- They practice righteousness
- They practice love toward the brethren.