



1 JOHN

Children of God (1 John 3:1-10)

1 John 3:1-10 (ESV)

- 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.
- 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.
- ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

1 John 3:1-10 (ESV)

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

1 John 3:1-10 (ESV)

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

The opening to Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken"

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

The Family of God

(1 John 3:1-3)

- **A. God Loves Us**
- “See **what kind of love the Father has given to us**, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” (1 John 3:1a)
- “For **God so loved the world**, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:16-17).

The Family of God

(1 John 3:1-3)

- **B. Outsiders are Oblivious**
- “The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him” (1 John 3:1b).
- **The world’s failure to have faith:**
- Has not **God made foolish the wisdom of the world?** ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, **it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.** ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ **but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,** ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ **For the foolishness of God is wiser than men,** and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Corinthians 1:20-25).

The Family of God

(1 John 3:1-3)

- **C. Our Now and Not Yet (3:2)**
- “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.
- **Eschatology**: the study of the End Times when Christ returns
- **The Apostles’ Creed**:
- He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

The Family of God

(1 John 3:1-3)

- **C. Our Now and Not Yet (3:3)**
- “And everyone who thus hopes in him **purifies himself as he is pure**” (1 John 3:2-3).
- **Discipleship/Sanctification:** In the meantime, we grow closer to Christ through such means as the “**spiritual disciplines**”:
 - Praise & Worship, Prayer, Studying Scripture, Fellowship, Service, Stewardship,
 - Fasting, Journaling, Witnessing, Simplicity, Silence, Meditating on the Word
 - Confession, Praying Scripture back to God

The Family of God: Takeaway

- “Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are **of the same family**. So, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters”
(Hebrews 2:11)

II. Looks are Not Deceiving

(1 John 3:4-7)

- **A. Christ came to take away our sin (3:5)**
- “You know that **he appeared in order to take away sins**, and in him there is no sin” (1 John 3:5).
- “For Christ also suffered once for sins, **the righteous for the unrighteous**, that he might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18).

II. Looks are Not Deceiving

(1 John 3:4-7)

- **B. Righteous living reflects a righteous spirit (3:6a)(3:7b)**
- “No one who abides in him keeps on sinning”(1 John 3:6a).
- “For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, ⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ **The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good**” (Luke 6:43-45a).
- “**Whoever practices righteousness is righteous**, as he is righteous” (1 John 3:7b).
- “**the righteousness of God** through faith in Jesus Christ **for all who believe**” (Romans 3:22)

II. Looks are Not Deceiving

(1 John 3:4-7)

- **C. Sinful living reveals a sinful spirit (3:4)(3:6b)**
- “Everyone who makes a **practice of sinning also practices lawlessness**; sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4).
- “And **these words that I command you today** shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).
- “no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him” (1 John 3:6b).
- “and **the evil person** out of his evil treasure **produces evil**” (Luke 6:45b)

II. Looks are Not Deceiving

Takeaway

- “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷ **Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.** ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life” (Galatians 6:6-8).

III. A Choice Between Two Roads

(1 John 3:8-10)

- **A. Following the Father of Lies (3:8)**
- “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” (1 John 3:8).
- “You are of your father **the devil**, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. **When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies**” (John 8:44).

III. A Choice Between Two Roads

(1 John 3:8-10)

- **B. Nurturing the Seed of Faith (3:9) [Hunkering down]**
- “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” (1 John 3:9).
- “But those that were **sown on the good soil** are the ones who hear the word and accept it **and bear fruit**, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold” (Mark 4:20).
- “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of **mustard seed** that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is **the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown** it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree” (Matthew 13:31).

III. A Choice Between Two Roads

(1 John 3:8-10)

- **C. Family Traits (3:10)**

- “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 John 3:10).

1. Righteousness

- “The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe” (Romans 3:22).

2. Loving Each Other

- “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

The ending to Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken"

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

- **Takeaway: Choose the Road of Righteousness**
- "Only **let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27).

A silhouette of two hands holding a glowing cross against a sunset background. The hands are positioned in the center-right of the frame, with the fingers spread and the palms facing each other. A bright, glowing cross is centered between the hands, emitting a strong light that creates a lens flare effect. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Let Us Pray