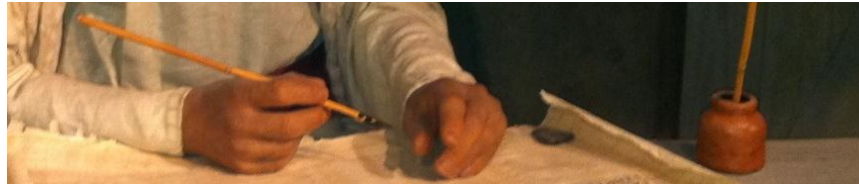


The 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of

# John



## Lesson 3-Keeping Pure from Sin as God's Child

**Focus:** 1 John 3:1-24

### ➤ The Love of God that Saves us from Sin (v.1-6)

- God has shown us His great love in that He would forgive us our sins and still call us His children! It is a wonderful privilege to be a part of the family of God! The world does not know or understand the ways of God because they are living in sin. Therefore, when one is a child of God, our ways do not follow after the pattern of the world, and therefore our way can seem a bit strange to them.
- (v.2) Today, NOW, we who belong to Christ Jesus are counted as the sons and daughters of God! That is His love for us; an expression of a loving father's heart! We who belong to Christ are not laboring to become His children. No! We ARE His children! Now, we are His! If we are disobedient, then we will be reprimanded by Him (ref. Hebrews 12:5-13). But, we are still His children! *And just what we will be like, when He comes, has not yet appeared to us – in other words, we have not seen just exactly how our characters will look on the day when Jesus returns, yet. But we know that as God's holy children, we will be like Him in our characters, granted that our hearts have been daily renewed and kept by His grace, His word of truth, and His power!*
- (v.3) If we have this hope, we should be purifying ourselves or aiming our lives after the pattern that Jesus Christ has set for us! A pattern of purity and holiness!

### ➤ Those who are born of God do not live in sin (v.7-11)

- (v.4-6) Sin is the breaking of God's Holy Law! The Bible here clearly defines sin for what it is! God's laws are holy, just, and true! They are good and perfect! (See Romans 7:12; Psalm 19:7). They set forth in clear lines what love for God and love for man requires. They are laws of love! If we break the 10 commandments or any other laws of God then we are committing sin, and dishonoring God. Jesus says, **we must abide in Him!** We must remain spiritually connected to Him by prayer, devotion, reading of His word, and by obeying His word. If we commit sin, then we are stepping out of His holy presence to do so. Jesus says we should remain in Him (See **John 15:4-10**). If we truly know Him, then we should know His love for holiness and purity and His utter hatred for sin!! Then, consequently, we should choose to put sin away from us, and to abide in Him, striving always and diligently to keep His holy word!
- (v.7-11) Those who commit sin are of the Devil. Those who live in righteousness are of God. Jesus said, "You shall know them by their fruits" (**Matthew 7:15-20**). We are the servant of the one who we obey (See **Romans 6:16**). Jesus condemned the Pharisees for being children of the Devil who did not do or truly believe the truth of God (See **John 8:42-44**). These verses are talking about a life characterized by repeated acts of sin. They are not talking about a person's foolish misstep into a sin, and then sudden

repentance (See 1 John 2:1). Even Moses, David, Adam and Eve, Abraham, Peter, and many others made some sinful mistakes in their lives, but their life was not characterized by sin. No, it was characterized by righteousness. They are mostly remembered for their righteous lives, although we cannot hide the blemish from their noted slips into sin. We are to seek the Lord and to rejoice in Him! Let us repent of sin and “sin not” (1 John 2:1). Let us “sin no more” as Jesus said. But, if we slip up, we do have an advocate with the Father and we are still His children, if repentant and longing to be faithful! Remember His promises, such as 1 John 1:9 and Isaiah 1:16-19.

- **Love as God loved and beware of hatred from evil doers (v.12-18)**
  - The people of the world who do evil are likely to hate those whose life is a rebuke to them! Just look at one example after another (See Lot’s case, Genesis 19:7-9). We are to be faithful to God anyway, and to love our brothers and sisters, not only in word, but in ACTION! That is God’s true love!
- **Having a clean conscience and a sure faith before God (v.19-24)**
  - We are to strive always to keep a pure conscience before God! Even as Paul did (Acts 24:16).

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

**Is it your desire and prayer to keep your life pure from sin and to abide in Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_**