

1 John 3:4-10 – Our Practice Exposes Our Position

Introduction

1. Main Theme of 1 John: Christian Assurance (**1 John 5:13**)
2. Three Tests for Assurance: Moral, Social, Theological
3. The Moral & Social Tests of Christian Assurance are Revisited in Our Passage; Specifically the Moral Test
4. Sin ought never look right to the Christian
5. The Summary of the Passage (**1 John 3:10**)

Main Point: There are two categories of people: The children of God and the children of Satan. Those who are born of God practice righteousness, while those who are of the Devil practice lawlessness. Christ came to atone for sins and destroy the works of the Devil.

Satan and His Offspring (vv 4, 6, 8a, 10)

1. Disobedience to God's Law: A Life Characterized By Sin
 - a. Essence of Sin: Lawlessness, Rebellion
 - b. Disobedience to Christ Commands is Disobedience to Christ Himself
 - c. God's Law is a Reflection of the Law Giver
 - d. Loving God's Law = Loving God (**Psalms 119:155**)
 - e. Practicing Sin is Lawless Living – keep doing it, it is a pattern of sin (never fought, never repented of)
 - f. Satan's offspring does not care about indulging in sin
2. Like Father, Like Son/Daughter
 - a. Sinners sin because they belong to the Evil One: Satan is their father – in his grip, under his control
 - b. He blinds their eyes to the truth of God and the Gospel
 - c. Sinners drive toward sin, lust after it, desire it, practice it with no sense of guilt (only pleasure)
 - d. The family traits are passed down
3. Satan is the Originator of Sin; Came from His Proud Heart
 - a. **Isaiah 14:12-14 & Ezekiel 28:11b-17**
 - b. Satan created Sin by placing himself above God
 - c. Satan is convincing: One Third of the Sinless Angels in the Presence of God Followed Him
 - d. Satan uses His persuasive powers to entice sinners to follow his orders –
 - e. Sinners follow the Devil, for they belong to him (**Acts 13:8-10, John 8:44**)
 - f. Sinners do nothing but sin, for their nature is faithless
 - g. Satan blinds Sinners to the Gospel (**1 Cor 4:3-4**)
 - h. The whole world is under Satan's Power (**1 Jn 5:19**)

4. Satan Practices Sin and Paralyzes the Sinner's Will to do nothing but sin – they practice sinning (**1 Timothy 2:25b-26**)
5. Christians were once in this Category – Children of Satan (**Ephesians 2:1-3**) – God had Mercy on His People

Jesus Christ and His Work (vv 5, 8b)

1. Jesus Came to Destroy the Works of the Devil (**Heb 2:14**)
 - a. The Design of God from the Beginning (**Genesis 3:15**)
 - b. Born of a Virgin, under the Law (**Galatians 4:4-5**)
 - c. Jesus' Heel was Bruised at the Cross, Satan's Head was Bruised and Crushed at the Cross
 - d. The Power of Sin was Defeated making the Children of God freedom to enter into the Kingdom of God
 - e. Satan was Judged at the Cross (**John 12:31, 16:8-11**)
 - f. Satan's Offspring were Judged at the Cross (**Jn 16:8-11**)
 - g. Satan and His Demons were Disarmed (**Colossians 2:15**)
 - h. The Children of God are the Fruit of Christ's Work, the Trophies of His Grace
2. Sinless, Righteous Jesus Came to Atonement for Sin
 - a. Jesus Paid for Our Sin – ALL OF IT! Past, Present, Future
 - b. Sinful Practice is Fighting Against Jesus
 - c. Jesus Conquered the Power of Sin (**Colossians 1:13-14**)
 - d. Jesus' Precious Blood Covered our Sin (**Col 2:13-14**)
 - e. By God's Grace & Mercy sent His Only Begotten Son to Rescue the Perishing Sinner to make You a Child of God

God and His Children (vv 6-7, 9-10)

1. Children of God Abide in Christ – They Remain With Him!
2. Children of God do not have a life marked by Sin
 - a. Attitude and Sensitivity to Sin has Changed (Sin disturbs the Believer)
3. Union with Christ makes a love affair with Sin impossible
4. Since Christ is Sinless, Christians Conform to that Character
 - a. Christians are BEING Sanctified – not sinless perfection
 - b. Biblical Hope drives us to Pursue Holiness
 - c. Sanctification Validates the Believer's New Birth
5. The Spirit and the Word (The Seed of God) Convicts you of Sin Steering you toward Repentance
6. The Narrow Road that Leads to Life is Marked by a Holy Hatred of Sin
7. Easy Believism (say a sinner's prayer and live like the Devil) is denied by this passage
8. Never think one is truly born again if there is a practice of sin, jumping into it with no sanctified fight, no repentance, no pursuit of holiness