

I John

Listen Up, Kids!

I John 3:1-10

How great is the 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. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. ⁸ He 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. ⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has 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 a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

1. Why ought it always be astonishing to God's children that we're called God's children?
 - Why doesn't the world know the children of God? How would God have the children of God introduce themselves to the world?

2. We don't have all the info, but what are some things Scripture tells us about what we'll be like in the resurrection? When does this happen?
 - Because this happens, John says to do what in **v. 3**? How?

3. What does John say in **vs. 4-6** about the nature of sinners, sin, and those who live in him (God)?

4. In **v. 7**, John tells his children to not let anyone lead them astray and then describes those the righteous and the unrighteous. What's the difference and why do you need to know?
 - Consider the impact **v. 8a** could have on a believer! How does John immediately assure God's tenderhearted people?

5. What does the person born of God not do? How? How does John show the first and second tables of the law are equal?

I John 3:11-24

This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him. ¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. ¹⁹ This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

6. Clearly now, an example is given of the type of hate God's people can expect to receive and in what circumstance. Why did Cain hate and murder Able?
 - When has the righteousness of a sister or brother made you furious?
 - Why is advance knowledge of hate received for righteousness and love liberating?
7. In a legitimate but roundabout way of thinking, what comfort can we find in our own righteous actions and love?
 - How seriously does God take the showing of love or the harboring of hate?
8. What is love? How do we know? What does it look like for us to show this type of love?
 - **Verse 18!** That's all.
9. How do we set our hearts at peace when they condemn us?
10. What things have been said in chapter 3 to teach us that worship is so much more than a designated time, that it's a faith born lifestyle?