

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

I JOHN 3:1-10

Lesson 10

REVIEW:

The results of *abiding* in the Word of God and the wonderful provision of the anointing of God *abiding* in us speaks of our steadfastness. Just as we have the promise of the Holy Spirit remaining in us, it is essential that we remain (abide) in the Word. What did you learn from I John 2:24-29 is the result of *abiding* in the Word?

FIRST DAY:

Read and study I John 3:1-10 inductively. See pages 5 and 6.

SECOND DAY: Read I John 3:1

1. The first two chapters of I John deal with *fellowship* with God and the *assurance* a Christian has with God. Now, the last three chapters deal with the *sonship* (relationship) a Christian has with God, his heavenly *Father*. What does John tell us to *Behold* in I John 3:1?
2. See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God (I John 3:1a NASB). Behold (gaze intently) on this great love through the following verses:
 - a. Jeremiah 31:3
 - b. John 3:16
 - c. Romans 5:8
 - d. What is one of your favorite verses about God's love?
 - e. Relate a few of the ways God's love is different from that of the world.
2. One effect of the bestowal of God's love is that *we should be called the sons of God*. Called means *named*. God has *named* us His children. He gladly claims us as His. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name (John 1:12). List a few of the benefits available to us as *His sons* (children).
 - a. What does it mean to you that God has adopted you and named you His child, allowing you to address Him as *Father*?

3. The word *know* in I John 3:1c indicates the world does not *understand* us. Since we share the very nature of God and the world does not know Him, explain as you would to a new Christian why they are experiencing rejection and feel misunderstood by those who are not believers.

The Love of God
Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry.
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.
- Lehman

THIRD DAY: Read I John 3:2, 3

1. *Beloved, now we are the sons of God... this is a statement of assurance! For His Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts, and tells us that we really are God's children. And since we are His children, we will share His treasures - for all God gives to His Son Jesus is now ours too* (Romans 8:16,17a TLB). STOP! Meditate once more on the incredible love of God revealed in this verse. Then, take a moment to express in writing what it means to you to *know* that you are a child of God.
2. What will we be like when Jesus *appears*?
 - a. How do the following Scriptures confirm that one day we will be like Jesus?
Psalm 17:15
I Corinthians 15:49
Philippians 3:21a
 - a.) According to I John 3:2c, what will cause this transformation?
 - b.) Describe the transformation that has already taken place as you have focused your life on Jesus.

What we are now is a guarantee, in a sense, of what we are going to be.
Our sonship is in itself a guarantee of our glorification because
God never starts a work and then gives up.
-Martin Lloyd Jones

4. I John 3:3 speaks of *hope*. The *hope* of a Christian does not carry the same meaning as the definition that the world gives. It is not simply an anticipation of something that *might* happen. It is a confident expectation of something we *know* is going to happen. What a wonderful difference! Define in your own words *hope* from the above explanation.

FOURTH DAY: Read I John 3:4-6

1. *Every one who commits (practices) sin is guilty of lawlessness* (I John 3:4a AMP). Define *sin* using I John 3:4b.
2. According to I John 3:5, why was Jesus manifested? (Why did He come?)
 - a. The Lord Jesus knew sin to be so evil, that He came into our world to suffer and die on the cross to redeem us from it. How should this affect the way we look at sin?
3. In I John 3:6, the words *abide* and *sin* are in the present tense. A verb in the present tense indicates a continuous, habitual action. The character of a person is revealed by his habitual actions, not the occasional ones. Therefore, the literal Greek translation is *Everyone who in Him is constantly abiding is not habitually sinning*. This verse does not mean that Christians never sin. It means they do not live a consistently sinful lifestyle. And when they sin, they recognize it as sin and acknowledge their sin and confess and repent. Why would someone who is *abiding in Christ* not be living in a lifestyle of sin?
 - a. Some Christians think that because salvation frees them from the penalties of sin they can live any way they please. How does I John 3:6 refute their thinking?

FIFTH DAY: Read I John 3:7-10

1. Contrast the *children of God* to the *children of the devil* as described in I John 3:7-10.
2. *Righteous* character expresses itself in *righteous* conduct. *Righteousness* here means *the righteous life which is a result of salvation through Christ*. How has the believer been made *righteous*? Romans 5:17-19
3. Compare I John 3:8a to John 8:44. How is the *devil* described?
4. How are those described who *commit* (practice) *sin*? (Again, the Greek verb tense here indicates continual sin.)
 - a. Ephesians 2:2, 3
 - b. Colossians 1:21
5. According to I John 3:8b, why was the *Son of God* manifested?

6. I John 3:9 is written in contrast to verse 8. Just as the one who is of the devil cannot do righteousness, a true believer cannot commit (practice; live in a lifestyle of) sin. Matthew 7:18 declares *A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.* According to I John 3:9b, why does one who is *born of God* not commit (practice) sin?
7. I John 3:10 summarizes today's focus by proclaiming the difference between those who are *children of God* and those who are *children of the devil*. According to this verse, what is the difference?

*The expression of Christian character is not good doing, but God-likeness.
If the Spirit of God has transformed you within, you will exhibit divine characteristics in your life,
not good human characteristics. God's life in us expresses itself as God's life,
not as human life trying to be godly.
- Oswald Chambers*

SIXTH DAY: Review I John 3:1-10

1. The *world* does not understand us. Family resemblance is sure to show. What did you believe about Christians or Christianity before you came to Christ that you now know is not true?
2. I John 3:3 has been called a *quickening incentive* to live a pure life. From the following Scriptures, what should deter us from practicing a lifestyle of sin?
 - a. I John 3:1a
 - b. I John 3:2, 3
 - c. I John 3:5
 - d. I John 3:8
 - e. I John 3:9
3. Contrast the purposes and character of the devil with the purposes and character of Christ.
4. How has the study of I John 3:1-10 assured you of the power you have to walk in righteousness and given you the desire to do so?

*O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee,
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art!
Come in Thy sweetness, Come in Thy fullness,
Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.
- T. Chisholm*

I John 3:1-10

VERSE

WHAT THE VERSE IS SAYING

- 1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.
- 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.
- 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.
- 4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
- 5 And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin.
- 6 Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him.
- 7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous.
- 8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- 9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.
- 10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Who:

When:

What:

Where:

Why:

How:

What does this passage mean?

How does it apply to you personally?