

June 2, 2024
1 John 3: 4-10

It is good to be back in church today.

1 John has been a wonderfully diverse book with many different avenues to explore understanding that Jesus is real and He continues to impact us daily not just during His time as deity in flesh

We talked about light and the power of light to drive out darkness and that mankind often prefers darkness and hiding our deeds to being exposed to light.

We looked at the blood of animals and the blood of Jesus that purifies us

Then to what we actually believe and having to live it out.

We talked about getting it right in relationships. On to stages of life and maturity

Talking about antichrists and demystifying and not catastrophizing situations

And understanding that God is not like man and He lavished His love on us calling us children of God – God will not write you a “dear John” letter.

Last week, Craig explained how John goes on about being children of God and not knowing the full scope of it and that we need to live holy lives.

The next major section of this letters theme is to produce assurance that even as the believers “continue in Jesus,” they can know they are children of God.

The “tests” for knowing this is are:

1 Doing what is right (2:29-3:10) – Craig spoke on this that last week

2 Loving one another (3:11-24) 3 Testing the spirits (4:1-6)

Opening Prayer

Today 1 John 3: 4-10

⁴Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

⁷Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.⁸ The one 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 them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. ¹⁰This 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 God’s child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

4. Sin and Lawlessness

Frequently used as synonyms in OT and NT

In John's community the meanings were different

Sin – transgression of the Law, breaking God's command (**an act** of disobedience)

Lawlessness – rebellion against God and connected to Satan's rebellion (**lifestyle**)

– living like God's law didn't exist. "Go ahead and sin it up."

Very Gnostic in its approach - the dualism of body and spirit and the disassociation of them. As opposed to a triune understanding (more later)

Sin being an action.

Lawlessness being a lifestyle of ignoring God's commandments.

5. But Jesus appeared so that He might take away our sins.

Jesus appeared in history to remove sin.

John 1:29 The next day John (the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Hebrews 9 26 Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

So how does this happen?

This is referring back to the earlier message in 1 John about the blood and sacrifice. February 18, 2024

1 John 1 7But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, **and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^{bl} sin.**

John seems to write this so casually, just matter of fact - almost like a throw-in

This is far from an addendum, or a "by the way" claim.

This is foundational to our theology – we have to get this correct

We pray in the name of Jesus and plead the blood of Jesus over situations for cleansing. Why?

It is only His blood that accomplishes this – the blood with God's own DNA that Jesus freely gave, it was not taken from Him.

Commentary: Without Christ's ongoing cleansing, enduring fellowship would be impossible, **for the guilt resulting from sin destroys fellowship.** The results of that cleansing are forgiveness, restoration, and the reestablishment of love. John's use of the singular "sin" reminds us that the emphasis is not on a specific sinful act, but on the work of God in Christ that deals with the sin principle itself.

When Adam and Eve ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, what died that day?

God says, "When you eat of it you will die." Adam and Eve ultimately died, but it was not an immediate death. But on that day they realized that they were naked and they were ashamed of their nakedness. So all of a sudden they're covering up, they were feeling a little awkward, and they were self-aware.

So what did they do? They grabbed fig leaves, they were trying to self-preserve.

That's religion. It's man's attempt to cover their shame.

But then God says, "No, no, listen, those things aren't going to last. I'm going to provide."

So what is the first death recorded in the Bible?

The very first death happened that day when those animals died to make coverings. God took a life to cover man's shame – a type of Christ; a forerunner of what is to come.

I have been pondering the vastness of Jesus recently.
Sometimes, I have had a small view of Him

6. In Him there is no sin – Vin diagram - overlapping circles

In Jesus there is no sin, so if you live "IN HIM" you don't keep on sinning – the circles don't overlap.

POWER POINT of a VIN diagram

John uses the present tense to emphasize that sinlessness is Jesus eternal nature.
"And in Him is no sin."

He was sinless in His preexistence, sinless in His life in the flesh, and sinless in His eternal position as Son making Him the only One that could have appeared so that He might take away our sins.

Keep on sinning (act of disobedience)? – or continuing to sin (lifestyle)?

Delta foss B

Mistakes are different than intentionally sinning because we don't care about God's ways.

7. Our goal in the Christian life is to be righteous, just as He is righteous. The Bible's standard of human righteousness is God's own perfection in every attribute, every attitude, every behavior, and every word. Thus, God's laws, both describe His own character and constitute the plumb line by which He measures human righteousness. **That is a tough standard to keep!! Jesus as the plumb line.** Square, plumb and level

The Greek New Testament word for "righteousness" primarily describes conduct in relation to others, especially with regards to the rights of others in business, in legal matters, and beginning with relationship to God. It is contrasted with wickedness, the conduct of the one who, out of gross self-centeredness, neither reveres God nor respects man.

Not earning, but evidence, doing right is evidence that you are righteous. If you try to do right to earn righteousness – that only makes you self-righteous. (not cool) because you set the standard to achieve. Only Jesus can make you righteous

8. The devil has been sinning from the beginning – Jesus came to destroy the devil's work.

Sin is transgression of the law of God and rebellion against God
Sin had its beginning with Lucifer, probably the most beautiful and powerful of the angels.

Wayne Grudem says, "Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude, or nature." Breaking the 10 commandments.

Simply, sin is when we fail to look like God and depend on him. Tony Evans said "Sin makes us self-centered and self-dependent instead of God-centered and God-dependent."

Do you see the juxtaposition of Jesus and Satan?
Jesus being sinless from eternity to eternity – it is not who He is
Satan was sinful, is sinful and will be sinful – it is who he is.

If you are looking for some understanding of why there is spiritual warfare, look no further than the contrasting Jesus (sinless) and satan (sinfull)

9. No one who is born of God will continue to sin. (that sounds great)
How many of us have a hard time living that out? I do.

Amnesty - to pardon (someone) officially often before a trial or conviction

Kent State dorm silverware story

National office – shut down immediately – at the altar and started weeping over people not having a chance to confess and get help.

Tuesday night open to all men that need accountability not just pornography.

What about when you can't stop?

This is where the church gets into a bi-une solution for problems.

Read more – pray more (body) and stop doing that (spirit)

Mind must be involved in this process – changing neural pathways, having our minds renewed by Christ.

Shake the snow globe.

Satan is not worried about your sin – he is after your authority.

God's plan for you was not for you to keep on sinning.

God planted a seed in you and it can bring fruit

We often forget that there is/was an “original design” that God created us for.

God has not forgotten what that was; for you to be with Him and do His will.

He can and will redeem failure if we allow Him to.

Remember we are talking about “tests” for showing we are God's children

The first test is: Doing what is right

We do what is right not because it was our idea, but because God lavished His love on us thru Christ.

The real evidence is fruit

Kris Langham – Thru the Word