

# 1 John Chapter 3: Being and Becoming/Believers and Make-Believers

Remember to lift Up the Lord Jesus Christ; Make Much of God

## Chapter 2 Review

- **God's love revealed by God's action**; Jesus is our:
  - Advocate/Propitiation
- **Our Assurance** Confirmed by Our Love
- **Spiritual Maturity** in 3 degrees
  - Fathers, Young Men, Little Children
- **Rejecting idols by not loving the world**; not lusting after:
  - Flesh, Eyes, Pride of life
- **Anointed with God's Holy Spirit** for:
  - Discernment: Truth/Error
  - Practical Righteousness of God's children:

**1 John 2:28** *Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. 29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.*

- **Practical Righteousness** of God's children continued in chapter 3
- Practice reflecting Position; i.e. **"Walking in a manner worthy of our calling"** [c.f. Eph.4:1]

## I. Our Father's Manner of Love Salvation

<sup>1</sup>See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called **children of God**; and such we are For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

- **Father's great love**: [c.f. John 3:16] "...that we would be called children of God"
- Salvation in three tenses; **finished work in process**

1. **Past**: I **have** been saved; i.e. we heard and we believed

**John 5:24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who **hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

**John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who **believe in His name...**

**Ephesians 1:13** **...after listening** to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also **believed**, you were **sealed in Him** with the Holy Spirit of promise...

2. **Present**: I **am** being saved; faith perfected [complete]through sanctification

**2 Corinthians 3:18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the

Lord, are **being transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

**2 Peter 3:18 ...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ To Him be the glory**, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

**Philippians 2:12 ... work out your salvation** with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

**Hebrews 5:8** Although He was a Son, He [Jesus] **learned obedience** from the things which He suffered. And having been **made perfect**, He [Jesus] became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation...

**James 2:21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, **faith was perfected...**

**\*NOTE: Saving faith manifests in good works...** *verifying, not earning or adding to*, our salvation, which was purchased solely by Jesus atoning death on the cross and validated by God the Father by Jesus resurrection from the dead. **Period**

3. I **will** be saved: Change complete; **metamorphosis**

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| <b>APEARANCE #2 The Rapture: Like Him; No Sin/no struggle</b> |
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**Corinthians 15:51** Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but **we will all be changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and **we will be changed**.

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, now **we are children of God**, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that **when He appears, we will be like Him**, because we will **see Him just as He is**.

- **We are children of God now**; but we are not all that we one day will be:

**Romans 8:16** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that **we are children of God...19** For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ...23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body**.

**Romans 8:30** ...whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He **called**, He also **justified**; and these whom He justified, He also **glorified**. [Note past tense]

- God sees us "**as we will be**"; He will *not* destroy who we are

**Isaiah 61:3b** to bestow on them a crown of **beauty** instead of **ashes**, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the **display of his splendor**.

<sup>3</sup> And everyone who **has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself**, just as **He is pure**.

- **The hope that purifies:** How we live here determines if we are really waiting for His return
  1. Jesus is coming back
  2. We shall see Him **just as He is**
  3. We will be "like Him" [not equal...but like]

**Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, <sup>12</sup> instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the **blessed hope and the appearing** of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus...

**Colossians 3:1** ...keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.<sup>2</sup> Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

*Some have said that if we are too heavenly minded we will be no earthly good. The Church's' problem today is we are to earthly minded to be any heavenly good!*

- **God's children:** Have been, are, and will be ... **saved**
- **Focusing on Jesus** and being "like Him" purifies us and causes us to live rightly
- "the world does not know [understand] us"; hope, love, deeds [v.13 and notes]

## **II. Known by Their Fruit** Believers and Make-Believers

**Mathew 7:20** "So then, you will know them by their fruits..."

- Old/New nature conflict...war...**flesh vs. Spirit**
- Though we "war" against our flesh, believers **do not practice sin**

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who **practices** sin also practices lawlessness; and **sin is lawlessness**.

- **Practices sin:** I.e. continually, habitually, lives in sin...like it and don't care
- **Lawlessness=Transgression;** i.e. before the law there was still sin but not transgression[lawlessness]; after the law was transgression which of course...is sin
- **Summary:** When there is a law and we go beyond it [transgress] we are in sin

**Romans 7:7b** I would **not have come to know sin except through the Law**; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."  
<sup>8</sup>But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.

**Romans 3:20** ...by the works of the Law *no flesh will be justified* in His sight; for through the Law **comes the knowledge of sin.**

Knowing the law does not help us to keep the law but to run as fast as we can to Christ

**Galatians 3:24** Therefore the Law has become our tutor **to lead us to Christ**, so that we may be justified by faith.

**APEARANCE #1 The Incarnation:** Victory over Sin/ Deliverance from the Power of Sin

**1 Corinthians 15:56** ...the power of sin is the law; <sup>57</sup>but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>5</sup> You know that **He appeared in order to take away sins**; and in Him there is **no sin.**

**Romans 8:3** For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, **He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us...**

- **He appeared to take away sins:** The reason for Jesus incarnation
- **Jesus takes away sins:** Plural

1. **Penalty** of sin; judgment

**John 1:29** "Behold, the Lamb of God who *takes away the sin of the world!*

**2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin **to be sin** on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2. **Practice** of sin [as here in 1 John]; New Nature

- **"In Him there is no sin"** lit. *in Him sin is not*; Jesus kept the law completely [sinless], died and resurrected
- **Abiding in Christ:** Sinful lifestyle [walk] is not possible; **"in Him there is no sin"**
- **E.g.:** Prodigal; we will be **miserable** in sin if we are truly "born again"

**Luke 15:17** ..."But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "**Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight...**

- **Weeding out the Gnostic infiltrators/ Make believers**

<sup>6</sup> No one who abides in Him sins; **no one who sins has seen Him** or knows Him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, **make sure no one deceives you**; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; <sup>8</sup>the one who

practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning The Son of God appeared for this purpose, **to destroy the works of the devil.**

- No one who **ABIDES** in Him sins
- **Jesus destroyed the works of the devil:** there is **deliverance** in Jesus

**Hebrews 2:14** Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil...

- Drugs, Alcohol, Perversion, wrong thinking, selfishness, any/all sin:

<sup>9</sup>No one who is born of God practices sin, because **His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**

- **Seed:** gr. *sperma*; transference of paternal characteristics
- **Born of God:** Unseen seed grows and determines seen fruit

**John 3:7** "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be **born again.**'

**1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be **born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

<sup>10</sup> By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: **anyone who does not practice righteousness** is not of God, **nor the one who does not love his brother.**

- **Obvious children of the devil: No universal fatherhood of God**
  1. Those who practice unrighteousness [lifestyle of sin]
  2. Those who do not love their brother; i.e. gr. *agapao*; i.e. God's love which is "a concerned love that acts to benefit another"

<sup>11</sup> For this is the message which you have **heard from the beginning**, that **we should love one another;** <sup>12</sup>not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and **his brother's were righteous.**

- "...heard from the beginning" : The Incarnation
- Unrighteous have hated righteousness from creation
- **Don't go ...The way of Cain:**

**Jude 1:11** Woe to them [false teachers]! For they have gone the **way of Cain,**

**Genesis 4:8** Cain told Abel his brother [that his sacrifice was not accepted]. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother [*whose sacrifice was accepted*] and killed him.

1. **Hating God's approval** of another's righteous life
2. **Envy:** def: *Discontent or uneasiness at the sight of another's excellence or blessings accompanied with some degree of hatred and a desire to possess equal advantage*
3. **Also:** Turning the grace of God into licentiousness [basis for hating the righteous]

**Jude 1:4** For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who **turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.**

**Proverbs 29:10** Men of bloodshed **hate the blameless**, But the upright are concerned for his life.

<sup>13</sup> **Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.**

**John 3:19** "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20" For **everyone who does evil hates the Light**, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

**John 8:40** "...you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has **told you the truth**, which I heard from God..."

**John 15:17** "This I command you, that you love one another. 18" If the world hates you, you **know that it has hated Me before it hated you.** 19" If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

**John 17:14** "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

- Jesus offers deliverance as we are "in Him"
- Those who are not God's will be known by their fruit; hatred, envy; lawlessness

### **III. Love in Action Our Heart's Assurance**

- **Gnostic:** To Know. Self-seeking, self-glorifying; self-edifying, etc
- **John:** Know **Love** and **Truth**

<sup>14</sup> **We know** that we have passed out of death into life, **because we love the brethren.** He who does not love abides in death.

- Love the brethren: Abiding in **Christ and Life**
- Hate the brethren: Abiding in **death**

<sup>15</sup> Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that **no**

**murderer has eternal life** abiding in him.

**Mathew 5:21** "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' 22"But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

**John 8:44** "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from **his own nature**, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

**Revelation 21:8** "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and **murderers** and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

### Knowing Love

<sup>16</sup> **We know love** by this, that He laid down His life for us; and **we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.**

- **"what would Jesus do"**: Lay down His life for others

<sup>17</sup>But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and **closes his heart against him**, how does the love of God abide in him?

1. Blessed by God
2. Brothers need arises
3. Conscience closing of the heart

**Proverbs 3:27** Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in your power to do it.

**Deuteronomy 15:7** "If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother..."

**James 2:15** If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?

### Knowing Truth

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not **love** with word or with tongue, but **in deed and truth**. <sup>19</sup>We will know by this that we are of the truth, **and will assure our heart** before Him

- **Talk is cheap:** costs nothing/No sacrifice; **Love is sacrifice:** Laying down our lives
  1. **Deed** Loving in deed [motive to glorify God]
  2. **Truth** Loving in Truth [motive to glorify God]
- We love in **action**, not words or nice thoughts
- **Assurance of our abiding in Christ:** Loving in deed and truth

<sup>20</sup> in whatever our heart condemns us; for **God is greater than our heart** and knows all things.

- **God is more compassionate** to us than we are to ourselves sometimes
- When we fail in love as we know we should; we **go to God for mercy and grace**

<sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart **does not condemn us**, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup> and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are **pleasing in His sight**.

- **Love in action** = assurance in **prayer**
- If our heart does not condemn us; i.e. in His will; "ask and receive"

**Psalm 37:4 Delight** yourself in the LORD; And **He will give** you the desires of your heart

**Matthew 7:7** " Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

**Matthew 21:22** "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

- Confidence that we are in a practical "right relation" with God is demonstrated by love in action not words or nice thoughts; i.e. laying down our lives

## **IV. Witness of the Holy Spirit Spirit's Assurance**

<sup>23</sup>This is His commandment, that we **believe in the name** of His Son Jesus Christ, and **love one another**, just as He commanded us.

- **Commandment singular:** Believe in His Name/Love one another

<sup>24</sup> The one who keeps His commandments **abides in Him**, and **He in him** We know by this that He abides in us, by **the Spirit whom He has given us**.

- **Keeping His commandments** = Abiding in God, God abiding in us, Loving others ,Believing in His Name i.e. communion/fellowship with God
- **Only by His Spirit: God's Spirit is in ALL believers:**

**John 14:17** ...that is **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because **He abides with you and will be in**



**you.** [cf. Romans 8:9]

## **SUMMARY:**

- I. Our Father's Manner of Love toward His children:** Salvation
  - 1. **APEARANCE #2** The Rapture
  - 2. Like Him; No Sin/no struggle
- II. Known by Their Fruit**
  - 1. **APEARANCE #1** The Incarnation/Life/Resurrection of Jesus
  - 2. Victory over Sin/ Deliverance from the Power of Sin
- III. Love in Action: Our Heart's Assurance**
  - 1. Loving in Truth; Laying down our lives
- IV. Witness of the Holy Spirit: Spirit's Assurance**
  - 1. God's Holy Spirit abides in believers; i.e. who believe in the Name of Jesus and keep His commandment to love