



Week 9 Study Guide

Read the text: 1 John 3:1-10

3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. 4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

Study the Text

- Make some observations...what jumps out to you? What are key words/phrases? Any repeated words? What questions does this passage raise?
- Look at verse 1: what makes God's love so "out of this world"?
- Why does John add "and so we are" in verse 1?
- What does John mean that the world "does not know us"? *Take a look at the beginning of the Gospel of John in chapter 1 where John says the world "did not know" Jesus.*
- What is sin according to this passage?
- What reasons are given for why practicing sin is incompatible with a relationship with God?
- Does this passage teach sinless perfection (the idea that a Christian will not sin anymore)?
- How does Jesus take away sin and destroy the works of the devil?
- Discuss the following statement: Jesus died not just to take away the penalty for sin but to defeat the power of sin.

- Look at Romans 6:1-14. What does Christ's death do to the power of sin over us as Christians?
- Verse 7 warns of not being deceived. What do you think the false teachers were telling these Christians about sin? How do we see this error still today?
- Summarize the big idea of this passage in a sentence or two. Then summarize how Paul makes that argument. Its always helpful to do this exercise with any text.
- What does this passage teach us about God?
- How is this passage both convicting and encouraging?

Prayer

- Spend a few moments thanking God
- Spend a few moments in confession of sin
- Spend a few minutes praying for each other and for our church

Mission

Who are you inviting to Easter services?