

## I. Our Profession of Faith Unpacked (1-2)

- A. It imparts to us our identity (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."
- B. It infuses us with hope (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."

## II. Our Profession of Faith Examined (3-6)

- A. A word about sanctification (3) - "And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure."
- B. A word about sin (4) - "Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness."
- C. A word about the Savior (5) - "You know that He appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin."
- D. A word about the saints (6-7) - "No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous."
- E. A word about the serpent (8a) - "Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning."

**2 Corinthians 13:5** - "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? - unless indeed you fail to meet the test!"

## III. Our Profession of Faith Validated (8b-10)

- A. Recalling the purpose of the Son (8b) - "...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."
- B. Recognizing the power of the Spirit (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."
- C. Revealing the paternity of the Father (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."

**Proverbs 20:11** - "Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright."