



The Book of First JOHN

Chapter 3

“FIVE TRAITS OF A CHILD OF GOD!”

- > TRAIT #1 – A CHILD OF GOD RECEIVES GOD’S LOVE AND HOPE! (v1-3)
- > TRAIT #2 - A CHILD OF GOD PRACTICES RIGHTEOUSNESS! (v4-10)
- > TRAIT #3 - A CHILD OF GOD WILL LOVE ONE ANOTHER! (v11-18)
- > TRAIT #4 - A CHILD OF GOD KNOWS THE TRUTH! (v19-22)
- > TRAIT #5 - A CHILD OF GOD KEEPS HIS COMMANDMENTS!

> TRAIT #1 – A CHILD OF GOD RECEIVES GOD’S LOVE AND HOPE! (v1-3)
- God has a SACRIFICIAL LOVE for us! - John 3:16-17- *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

- Porter Barrington writes, *It is an eternal fact that God loves you with an everlasting love that cannot be fathomed; it is so boundless that it can only be known by faith. The little word “so” in the above verse is most expressive. It gives you some concept of the magnitude of God’s love. God so loved you, that He gave His only begotten Son, to be sin for you, that you might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus Christ was made that which God hates: sin—that you might become that which God loves: righteousness. Because God so loved you, you can exchange your sins for His righteousness. Could you ask for greater evidence of love? Calvary is proof that God loves, and longs to save you.*

- GOD has an EVERLASTING LOVE for us! - Jeremiah 31:3 - *The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”*

- IN SPITE of us GOD LOVES us! - Romans 5:8- *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

- GOD’S LOVE is GREAT! - Ephesians 2:4-7- *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

(v2-3) Hope in Jesus PURIFIES US! - Warren Wiersbe writes- “An unbeliever who sins is a creature sinning against his Creator. A Christian who sins is a child sinning against his Father. The unbeliever sins against law; the believer sins against love.” There’s a story about a group of teenagers who were enjoying a party, and someone suggested that they go to a certain restaurant for a good time. “I’d rather

you took me home,” Jan said to her date. “My parents don’t approve of that place.” “Afraid your father will hurt you?” one of the girls asked sarcastically. “No,” Jan replied, “I’m not afraid my father will hurt me, but I am afraid I might hurt him.” She understood the principle that a true child of God, who has experienced the love of God, has no desire to sin against that love.”

- Christians have the Hope of HEAVEN & GLORIFICATION!

Philippians 3:20-21- *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

> TRAIT #2 – A CHILD OF GOD PRACTICES RIGHTEOUSNESS! (v4-10)

(v4) “commits sin”- This Greek verb has the force of a continuous present tense and thus denotes a person’s habitual attitude toward sin as expressed in his practice or non-practice of it. John is not speaking of a state of perfection in which it is impossible for a Christian ever to sin; but he is stressing the fact that a Christian cannot keep on practicing sin, because he is born of God.

(v5-7) 2 Corinthians 5:17-21- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

(v8) “to destroy”- *To rob of power or to render inoperative.*

- What are the works of the devil? Jesus said in John 8:44- *You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

Jesus also said in Luke 8:11-12- *"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."*

Isaiah Ch. 14 reveals that the devil is the originator of rebellious pride against God.

Paul wrote *that Satan blinds the mind (2 Corin. 4:4) so people won't receive Christ as Savior! Satan introduces false religions, establishes cults within the body of Christ, and fabricates heresy in the church (2 Corinthians 11:14).*

(v9-10) A child of God will practice righteousness and love his brother.

- What does it mean to practice righteousness? Turn to Colossians 3:5-19.

> TRAIT #3 – A CHILD OF GOD WILL LOVE ONE ANOTHER! (v11-18)

(v11-15) The Scripture says in Ephesians 5:1-2 - *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*

God is LOVE! - Am I? What's the opposite of love? HATE

God is LIGHT! - Am I? What's the opposite of light? DARKNESS

God is LIFE! - Am I? What's the opposite of life? DEATH

(v16-18) True love sacrifices for one another! Who has God called you to sacrifice for today?

- *Three steps- Pray—Love—Do (Do it for Jesus!)*

> TRAIT #4 – A CHILD OF GOD KNOWS THE TRUTH! (v19-22)

~ What Truth?

- Jesus is the Son of God! (v19)

- Jesus died for our sins! (v20 - past, present & future sins)

- Jesus resurrection and has given us everlasting life! (John 5:24)

- Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit so that our life can be like His! (John 3:3-8)

- Jesus loves us this I know for the Bible tells us so! (v21 - “confidence”)

- Jesus will answer our prayers! (v22)

> TRAIT #5 – A CHILD OF GOD KEEPS HIS COMMANDMENTS! (v23-24)

~ What are His commandments?

- Believe in Jesus!

- Love one another!

- The Holy Spirit is in us! – Jesus said in, John 14:26-27 . . . *the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

John 15:26- *"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. (In word & deed.)*

John 16:13-14- *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.*

- **REJOICE! AND LET US LOVE GOD!** – Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 2:9-10- *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."* But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.

- **Nothing can SEPARATE from GOD'S LOVE!** - Romans 8:35-39- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.