

1 John 3:1-9

“Purify”

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intro: talking about purity- Christian life- constant battle between fleshly desire to sin & spiritual desire to glorify God; how to experience victory and live purely- look to Jesus

subject: purity & the children of God

object: be purified

I. Why to be pure: you are God’s child (v.1-3)

- believers have a changes identity

A. You are loved by God (v.1)

- “what manner of love”- John astonished at God’s love in that we are children
- why so amazing- we are so undeserving!
- Ro 5- enemies of God yet Christ died for us and God adopted us (Ro. 8)
- Significance of the child identity- illustration of my parents

B. You have hope in God’s promises (v.2-3)

1. You will be made like Him (v.2a)

- Already talked about present implication- what about future implication?
- When Jesus returns, we will be like him- what does this mean?
- we won’t be equal with Jesus but like him in other ways (free from sin’s adverse affects, resurrection bodies, perfectly joyous)

2. You will be with Him (v.2b)

- seeing God face to face = being in His presence
- what makes eternity so great

3. You will be made pure (v.3)

- this hope= “expectation” in Greek

- hope of Jesus' return and eternity (v.2)
- if you have this hope it should produce a desire for purity and Christlikeness
- a surrender to Lordship of Jesus & allowing him to purify you
- hard because it can be painful & requires giving up pleasures, comforts and cares of this world

II. How to be pure: your call as God's child (v.4-9)

A. overcome sin (v.4-5)

- what is sin?

2. sin is lawlessness (v.4)

- behavior action attitude contrary to God's law
- Matt 5:19- law still matters
- As we talked about already- all guilty and unable to overcome yourself

2. Jesus has already won victory over sin (v.5)

- manifested= revealed & sent by God- to take away our sins!
- God saw people unable to deal with sin ding so he took saving action by sending Jesus

- Jesus only one able to pay price because in Him there is no sin (camp \$ illustration)- He died as out substituted but also lived as our sub.
- Faith in Jesus- God sees you as perfectly righteous

B. Don't be deceived (v.5)

- Deceived= led astray
- Gnostic context- Gnosticism gave license to pursue sinful pleasure
- Similar false gospels in our age (my college experience- God just wants me to be happy)
- John combats false gospel with truth about God's righteous standard

1. Be aware of deception from Satan (v.8)

- "sins"= one who "keeps on" sinning- unrepentant sin
- can't talk about sin w/out talking about the devil (Satan)
- Satan is the intelligence behind everything evil- a cunning and crafty adversary to the kingdom of God- naive to not be aware of him
- spiritual breakthrough —> spiritual attack
- Again, Jesus has already ensured the victory

C. Keep the focus on Jesus (v.6; 9)

1. Abide in Christ (v.6)

- Again, idea here is continual, habitual sin- John says incompatible with one who has experienced God's saving grace- possible salvation never happened
- Jesus warns about this in Matt 7; author of Hebrews in ch. 6; it's possible to hear the truth about Jesus/ Gospel and even experience God's power at work around you & yet never repent & be transformed
- desire to eliminate sin- one of the strongest evidences that a saving faith transformation has taken place- this manifests itself in lifelong struggle
- If you want to be effective, John says the key is abide in Christ
- abide= remain
- **“I am the vine, you are the branches, He who abides in me and I in him bears much fruit, for without me, you can do nothing” John 15:5**
- ***Based on John 15:5, what do you believe it means to abide in Jesus?***
- A: continually rely on Jesus for everything!- draw close to Him by worshipping Him- Bible learning, prayer, church attendance, community

- White knuckle approach doesn't work!

2. Remember you're born of God (v.9)

- 'born of God' = spiritual rebirth; a new creation
- **“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” 2 Corinthians 5:17**
- this is what God says about you & this is true regardless and apart from your performance
- when temptation happens & even when you fall and sin it's so important to know the gospel truth of what God says about you! This gospel identity is what Satan most often attacks
- Martin Luther: “The sin underneath all our sins is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands”
- Answer- not to look to yourself but to trust the love and grace of Jesus- who He is, what He has done & what He says about you
- Jesus was the perfect ex of this (Matt 4 & Jesus' temptation)- complete security in what God said about Him- connect w/ insecurity in my life
- Tie into message of gospel & encouraging all in where they are