

## THE RIGHTEOUS PURSUES HOLINESS

### Chapter 2 Lesson 10

**Chapter's Subject: Created Anew in Righteousness and True Holiness**

**Main Point: Called Out (Part E2)**

**Sub-Point: The Wholesome Life of the Believer (1 John 3:4-10)**

**Today's Study: 1 John 3:7-10**

- (a) V. 7 Deciding Factor
- (b) V. 8 Design and Office of the Lord Jesus Christ
- (c) V. 9 Dedicated through the implantation of the Word
- (d) V. 10 Discrimination between the Children of God and the Children of the Devil.

Time is available for only a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson.

*This lesson is a continuation of 1 John 3:4-10 that we started in lesson 9.*

### 1 John 3:4-10 Life Application Study Bible

“Everyone who sins is breaking God’s law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in him. Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know or understand who he is.

Dear children, don’t let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. But when people keep on sinning it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. Those who have been born into God’s family do not make a practice of sinning, because God’s life is in them. So they can’t keep on sinning because they are children of God. So now we can tell who are children of God and who are the children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.”

### THE WHOLESOME LIFE OF THE BELIEVER

#### A. Depraved Nature (1 John 3:4)

*Here, we see John looks at the nature of sin and the intrinsic evil of it.*

#### B. Design and Errand of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 3:5)

*John discusses the design and errand of Jesus Christ in the world.*

#### C. Distinction of Lifestyle (1 John 3:6)

*Here, John argues from the opposition between sin and real union or adhesion to the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*These first three pointers were discussed in previous lesson (Lesson 9).*

#### D. Deciding Factor (1 John 3:7)

**1 John 3:7**

**NIV:** “Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.”

**Amplified Bible:** “Boys (lads), let no one deceive and lead you astray. He who practices righteousness [who is upright, conforming to the divine will in purpose, thought, and action, living a consistently conscientious life] is righteous, even as He is righteous.”

**Here the apostle discusses the issue of the connection between the practice of righteousness and a state of righteousness, imitating withal that the practice of sin and a justified state are inconsistent.**

#### 1. “Little children ...” (1 John 3:7)

(a) This form of address was also used in chapter 2:1 (1 John).

(1) He speaks as an aged apostle.

(2) There is much experience with age especially when one lives in the light of God’s Word. From these experiences there is much to be learnt and passed on to the next generation.

- The message of the one True and Living God is to be passed on by the parents to all succeeding generations (Deut. 4:9; 6:7)
- Memorials of God’s deliverance, etc. (Ex. 12:14; Josh. 4:1-7, 21 ... NB Vv. 6-7; etc.)
- Parental Duty must be exercised; the need to teach clearly the things of God (Deut. 4:9; 6:7, 20; 21:19; etc.)
- To relate the guaranteed faithfulness, etc. of God to His people (Psa. 37:25)
- The elders should teach by words and example (**the most effective testimony is the one lived**) (Titus 2:2-3).
- Training is commanded (Prov. 22:6; Isa. 38:19; etc.)
- **Prov. 20:29 Amplified Bible**  
“The glory of young men is their strength and the **beauty of old men is their gray head [suggesting wisdom and experience].**”

(b) “Little children” is also an expression of affection.

(1) Such affection that exist between teacher and students, leader and followers.

(2) As in this situation there is a bonding, cohesiveness, a good rapport between teacher (Apostle John) and his students.

- This was a loving, genuine and God centered relationship.
- Some teachers/leaders **sole desire is just to have you around** so they can benefit by your presence and see how much they can get out of you. In

fact when some use the words “**I love you**” they are vain, hollow, etc. This sad state exists in so many areas of life, work, and government and sad to say but also evident in some marriages, etc. This selfish, hypocritical attitude is not seen in the Apostle John ... in 1 John 2:1 he said “My little children...” in 3:7 “Little children...” He speaks as a loving, affectionate, caring father in Zion!!!

(c) **“Little children...” There is also a deeper meaning.**

- (1) It refers to the fact that Christians experience fellowship with God as the result of the new birth (John 3:3).
  - Whereby we were alienated by sin through redemption we have been adopted into His family, under His loving care! (John 1:12; Rom. 8:15; 2 Cor. 6:16; Gal. 4:5, 6)
  - He is my (our) “Daddy O!” ... we can all say “Our Father” (Matt. 6:6, 9); we have free access to Him (Heb. 4:16).
- (2) The little children therefore, resemble their heavenly Father in both purpose and action!!

(d) **“Little children” dear children, and as much as you are ...**

- (1) This is a vulnerable time in your Christian experience but do not let anyone deceive you.
- (2) There are those who shall magnify your new life and Christian experience with the objective to create doubt, distractions and eventually destroy your new found faith.
- (3) They will make you believe that your knowledge, profession and baptism, will excuse you from a commitment to the Christian life. But be aware of their deceit!! Look out for them!! (2Cor. 11:1-14; 2 Tim. 3:1-14; etc.).

**Eph. 4:14 Amplified Bible**

“So then, we may no longer be children, tossed like [ships] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching and wavering with every changing wind of doctrine, [the prey] of cunning and cleverness of scrupulous men, [gamblers engaged] in every errors to mislead.”

2. **Many are deceived about the matter of sin and righteousness.**

- (a) Many are persuaded that they are saved and accepted by God solely because they have . . .
  - (1) Professed Jesus Christ
  - (2) Been baptized
  - (3) Joined a church
  - (4) Fellowship with Christians
  - (5) Read the Bible
  - (6) Pray (say prayers)
  - (7) Etc.
- (b) This is not a new problem in the Church (Universal) and as we have discussed before, John had similar situations to be addressed (1 John 3:7).

- (c) Some believe that as long as they do certain things (see the list above which is not exhaustive) they can live as they desire.
- (1) They believe that they can go ahead and enjoy a few of the world's pleasures and continue to seek after more and more of these worldly pleasures and still maintain a vital relationship with God.
- I will not go into details but many denominations and local congregations have now taken the world to the Church with all its worldly pleasures, trying to sanctify these foreign ways of living, inconsistent with God's way of living and claim that these are only meant to entertain. There is a problem when the only difference between the sinner and the saint is that one of them goes to church!!
  - **Two examples identified in 1 Tim. 5:5-6 (also two lifestyles been discussed in 1 John 3:4-10).** Much to be discussed in regards to 1 Tim. 5:5-6 but for now note the following:
    - Praying saint (1 Tim. 5:5)  
**NKJV:** "Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trust in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day."
    - Pleasure seeker (1 Tim 5:6)  
**Amplified Bibl:** "Whereas she who lives in pleasure [giving herself up to luxury and self-indulgence] is dead while she [still] lives."
    - **The contrast is obvious** (*The context takes in consideration the situation facing widows, see 1 Tim. 5:3-16*)
      - The real widow **trusts in God** and engages in a special ministry of intercessory prayers.
      - The worldly-minded, self-indulgent widow is a **pleasure seeker** and characterized as spiritually dead.
  - **We do not need to substitute what God has given to us!!**  
**Psa. 16:11 NKJV**  
 "You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."
- (2) I must move on but it is heartbreaking to see how the Church (Universal) is getting use to the dark more and more when we are called to be light and light is what ought to dispel the darkness!! God knows that we need a heaven sent , hell shaking, heart changing, Holy Ghost revival (Psa. 85, NB Vv. 5-13, lifting verse 6; see also Psa. 51:12, 13; 80:7; Isa. 2:15; Heb. 3:2). I know the times that we are living in but beloved, loving the dark and professing Christ is an abuse of divine grace!! (Rom. 6).
- (d) **John's response to this irregularity, this concept that it is OK for believers to partake of sinful worldly pleasures, was firm, forthright and fairly stated.**
- 1 John 3:7 NKJV**  
 "Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous."
3. **One may ask, "Who is acceptable to God?"**

(a) The only person who is acceptable to God (qualified to have intimate fellowship and live in His holy presence) are those who live righteous lives!!

(1) These persons follow after the righteousness of and pattern their lives after Jesus Christ!!

(2) The demand of Christ has been made clear...

**Luke 9:2 KJV**

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

- Any person who follows Jesus Christ has to deny himself ...
  - He has to die (**the old man must go!!**)
  - He has to give all he is and has to live righteously.
- Righteous living is not limited only to living pure clean lives (**while that is compulsory**):
  - It also means treating other people righteously.
  - It also means reaching out and helping all people, giving all we are to help them as is necessary and possible.
  - It also means not being unjust by hoarding and keeping more than we need.
  - It also means giving and living sacrificially to help those who are dying because they lack the bare necessities of life.
  - **It also means sacrificing all in order to carry forth the glorious message of salvation from sin, death and judgment to come.**
- See also Matt. 5:20; Rom. 10:3; Phil. 1:11; 1 Tim. 6:11; Titus 2:12; 2 Peter 3:11; 2 John 9

(b) **Let us offer to God that which is well pleasing... acceptable, such is our reasonable service!!!**

(1) **Rom. 12:1 Amplified Bible**

“I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.”

(1) See also Isa. 56:7; Phil. 4:18; Rom. 1:16; 1 Peter 2:5.

4. **The practice of righteousness cannot subsist (continue to exist) without a principle of integrity and conscience!!**

(a) The believer has the righteousness of Christ which consists in the pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life, founded in the imputation of the Mediator’s righteousness (*impute*: to credit to a person, ascribe, assign).

(b) He (the believer) has a title to the crown of righteousness, which the righteous Judge will give according to His covenant and promise to those that love His appearing (2 Tim. 4:8).

- (c) He has communion with Christ in conformity to the divine law, being in some measure practically righteous as He; and as has communion with Him in the justified state, being now relatively righteous together with Him.

**1 John 3:7 Amplified Bible** (*I know I have quoted before but it's worthwhile*)

"... He who practices righteousness [who is upright, conforming to the divine will in purpose, thought and action, living a consistently conscientious life] is righteous even as He is righteous."

**OH BELOVED!! LET US DAILY WALK IN THE LIGHT AS WE PURSUE HOLINESS OF LIFE!!!**

#### E. Design and Office of the Lord Jesus Christ.

##### **1 John 3:8 Amplified Bible**

"[But] he who commits sin [who practices evil-doing] is of the devil [takes his character from the evil one] for the devil has sinned (violated the divine law) from the beginning.

**The reason the Son of God was made (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil [has done]."**

*Here John argues based on the fact of the relation between the sinner and the devil and on the design and office of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

##### **Introductory Notes**

##### **1. 1 John 3:5, 8 (Briefly noted)**

- (a) In 1 John 3:5, we discussed the "Design and Errand of the Lord Jesus Christ."

(1) As seen in the verse (v. 5), Jesus Christ came to take away our sins (See Matt. 1:21; Luke 2:11; 19:10; John 3:17; 1 Tim. 1:15.

(2) Jesus Christ was that long awaited mystery (Col. 1:27) who God has now revealed, with the purpose of redeeming lost humanity (Gal. 4:4-5; Heb. 1:1-3).

- (b) In 1 John 3:8, we will be discussing the "Design and Office of the Lord Jesus Christ."

(1) Both verses (1 John 3:5 and 8) are similar in nature but in verse 8 we have seen the ultimate result of the Lord Jesus Christ's mission to earth.

(2) Through Jesus Christ there is not only the experience of deliverance from sin (**for those abiding in Christ**) but there is victory over Satan's power and eventually, we will see the devil eternally bound and banished.

##### **Rev. 20:10 NKJV**

"The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

##### **2. Note two things of interest in 1 John 3:8**

- (a) The Relationship Between the Sinner and the Devil.
- (b) The Reason (Ultimate Reason) Why Jesus Christ Came.

### 1 John 3:8

**NKJV:** “He who sins is of the evil, for the evil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, **that He might destroy the works of the devil.**”

**LASB:** “But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. **But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.**”

#### 1. Relationship Between the Sinner and the Devil (1 John 3:8a)

- (a) The person who sins is of the devil (habitually sins).
  - (1) This fact is made obvious by the person’s lifestyle, which is manifested in their practical way of living.
    - This fact is clearly stated in our txt (1 John :8a)
 

**1 John 3:8a ESV:** “Whosoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning.”
    - This is shocking and an unwelcomed statement for so many and sad but true even among some clergy; according to some, this statement should not be uttered from the pulpit as it is a means of harassing and insulting people (at least so they imply)
      - As I have noted in another lesson, this term sinner can be responded to in a repulsive, manner and so over the years the Church (Universal) has modified its use to the point that so many have become insensitive to the reality of sin.
      - Now if that is so offensive how will they handle the statement that he who habitually sins is of the devil? Everyone has the option to believe it or not! Scorn or reject it; fuss and fume about it ; etc. beloved, the Word of God still stands (read again the verse)

***I must note that I (we) will not be cold, callous nor judgmental; neither are we here to condemn anyone, etc.; however it is compulsory that we obey God rather than man and we do have a “Story to Tell to the Nations.” The fact remains that despite anyone’s lost and sinful condition, God is willing and ready to forgive and restore indeed, “There is Life for a Look at the Crucified One!!”MERCY WAS THERE AND GRACE WAS FREE!! OH!! BLESS HIS HOLY NAME!!!***

- (2) Difficult subject to discuss but it must be faced (*It is a message that must be proclaimed with the love of God and leave the results to Him!!*)

- As to the fact of the **habitual sinner** being referred to as one under the control of Satan; Jesus Christ, Himself, made his fact evidently clear and is applicable to anyone who professes Christ, whether they are Evangelicals, Pentecostals, or otherwise) **and keep in mind, throughout this study, I have made it clear that reference is being made to habitual sinning.**

**John 8:44 Amplified Bible**

“You are of your father the devil, and it is your will to practice the lust and gratify the desires [which are characteristic] of your father. 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 falsehood, he speaks what is natural to him, for he is a liar [himself] and the father of lies and all that is false.”

(b) **He who sins is of the devil** (*emphasis continues to ensure full understanding*)

(1) As noted before the statement means: **“He who habitually sin.”**

- Habitually, willfully and characteristically this person is a sinner.
- This person naturally sins; it is a way of life, even if done under the guise of being a Christian but we should note there is no cloak for sin (John 15:22 ... “no cloak” or “no excuse”). Moreover we should never use our Christian freedom as an excuse to sin (1 Cor. 6:12)

(2) Sin originates with Satan (Read again John 8:44; see also Gen. 3, NB Vv. 1-13; 2 Cor. 2:11; 11:3; 1 John 3:10; Rea also Matt. 13:36-43).

- In John 8:44, note the words “from the beginning.”
  - This means Satan was the first to sin.
  - He was the first one who rebelled against God and disobeyed God.
- Therefore, each person who rebelled against God and disobeyed God ...
  - He is following after Satan, in the footsteps of Satan.
  - Morally and spiritually the sinner is the offspring, the child of Satan.

(3) To practice sin is to distinguish who one really is!

- By his actions he is acknowledging that he is living under the power and dominion of sin.
- Thus proves that he is of the evil one
  - It is such sinful nature that makes one **habitually sin** is inspired by and agreeable with and pleasing to the devil.
  - Thus such a person belongs to the party and interest, and kingdom of the evil one.

(c) Note two important pointers. Time wouldn't allow for a discussion. (*You may want to continue build on what is below*).

(1) **First, “Sin is not of God!”**

- Remember these quotes:
  - “Holiness describes the transcendence and sovereignty of God.” (*“transcendence: excellence, superiority, etc.”*)



- “God Himself is the standard of holiness, and righteousness is the expression of God’s character (Isa. 5:16).”
- God is not the Father of sin and evil and corruption and death . . . the devil is!!

(2) **Second, “It is by sin that we have separated ourselves from God!!”**

- As we have seen in chapter 1 of this study: Sin is the foulest monster that has ever entered the universe!!!
- Sin is not only a dominant tyrant (Rom. 6 and 7), or a hereditary evil (Rom. 5:12) etc.; it separates man from God (Gen. 3)!!
- Etc.
- There is deliverance but it depends on man’s obedience to the wooing of God (Isa. 1, NB Vv. 18-21; Isa. 55; etc.)

(d) **One Other Very Important Point.**

*(Once more, time wouldn’t allow for further expansion on the following but you have a challenge to continue exploring this subject with the help of the Holy Spirit)*

**“WHAT IF A CHRISTIAN SINS INADVERTENTLY?” (*“Inadvertent: meaning unintentionally.”*)**

- (1) You have noticed that in preceding verses as well as in 1 John 3:9, we have noted sin, as used here, is referring to the **habitual, practice of sin.**
- (2) We have also seen that while we are saved from the compulsion of sin the possibility remains.
  - Absolutely, there are reasons why a believer sins but that is another topic for discussion.
  - There is help for any believer who sins and as you desire you may also explore on this topic but consider the highlighted pointers below.
- (3) **Confess your sins (don’t cover up, God sees it all (Psa. 94, NB Vv.6-11). Take it to God in humility and sincerity and be willing to obey (1 John 1:8-10; etc.)**
  - We must admit our sins and seek forgiveness and purity from God. Two things will be experienced:
    - Forgiveness and reconciliation with God.
    - Purity from guilt and destruction of sin’s power in order to live lives of holiness. ***I must repeat the importance of abiding in Christ and the need to display effort and diligence in maintaining a life of righteousness and true holiness.***
  - See Psa. 32:1-5; Prov. 28:1; Jer. 3:13; 31:34; Luke 15:18; Rom. 6:2-14.
- (4) See 1 John 2:1-2; this I refer to as “The Allowance.”
 

*Definitely, you would want to explore these verses (1 John 2:1-2) as I cannot do justice at this time. You are also encouraged to study the chapter.*

- Unlike what so many teach, you will observe that John did not say: “That you may sin...” He said, “...**these things I write unto you so that you MAY NOT sin.**”(NKJV) (See also Isa 1:16; Rom. 6, NB Vv. 12, 15; 1 Cor. 15:34; etc.)
- Also note John is not saying that we cannot sin or that we will not sin **but that we should live above the reproach of sin.**
- If anyone does sin he has an advocate who will and is ready to help!!
- You may break down 1 John 2:1-2 in parts for deeper study, for example:
  - “ ... that you sin not ...”
  - “ ... if any man sin ...”
  - “ ... we have an advocate ...”
  - “ ... Jesus Christ the righteous.”

(e) **Victory Over Prevailing Sin**

- (1) It is very important to note that I am NOT referring to those who **habitually or practice sin**. I am referring to those who unintentionally and have genuinely accepted that there is a problem to be addressed and they are willing to be helped.
- (2) I will be listing three things that need to be done in order to obtain victory over prevailing sin. The list is far from being exhaustive, and can be added to, if you so desire ... for example, here is one item that could be added:
  - **Maintaining a disciplined/consistent personal time with God and in His Word.**
    - There are far too many Christians who do not know the value of a disciplined consistent and regular Bible Study; there is time for everything else but not the Word of God (briefly stated).
    - It may sound strange but there are also those who do not know anything about “Prayer and Fasting;” and unfortunately even in churches where this is done some do not participate.
  - As noted above the following listing can be added to if you so desire.
- (3) **Three steps necessary to find victory over prevailing sin:**
  - **First,** Seek the power of the Holy Spirit and God’s Word (Zech. 4:6; Psa. 119, NB Vv. 9, 11, etc.)
  - **Second,** Stay away from tempting situations (1 Thess. 4:3-5; 5:22; 1 Peter 2:11; etc.)
  - **Third,** Seek the help of the body of Christ --- be open to their willingness to hold you accountable and pray with and for you (Prov. 27:17; James 5:16)
    - A bit of caution: You need to be selective as to who you confide in with sensitive issues because not everyone in the church is in the position to help you in this area.
    - You need someone who is spiritually mature and who are responsive to and under the control of the Holy Spirit.
    - See Rom. 15:1, 1 Cor. 9:22; Gal. 6:1-2.

## 2. The Reason (Ultimate Reason) Why Jesus Christ Came!!

### 1 John 3:8b Amplified Bible

“... The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil [has done].”

- (a) The devil has designed and endeavored to ruin the work of God in the world.
  - (1) The Son of God has undertaken the holy war against him.
  - (2) Christ came into the world, and was manifested in our flesh, that He might conquer Satan and dissolve his works (1 John 3 6b).
- (b) The objective to get rid of disruptive/destructive sources is a norm in everyday life.
  - (1) This is true in the medical field where millions of dollars and countless hours are invested and dedicated to both combat and cure diseases.
  - (2) This is very much true in regards to the police or the army who have various departments all geared at addressing threatening situations at various levels.
  - (3) The ultimate goal is not only victory over a particular threat, etc. but to remove the source of that disruptive/destructive source.
- (c) Spiritually, there is not only deliverance from sin but the removing and the annihilating of that source of bondage.
  - (1) We have seen throughout this study that anyone willing can experience salvation (deliverance) from sin through Jesus Christ.
  - (2) I have made many references and quoted songs that illustrate this fact of salvation ... **“Full Salvation!”**  
*Here is another great hymn; I am quoting only the first verse. The complete hymn is included with the Additional Information in lesson 11(Chapter 2).*

### **Victory in Jesus**

By Eugene Barlett

I heard an Old, old story  
 How a Savior came from glory,  
 How He gave His life on Calvary  
 To save a wretch like me;  
 I heard about His groaning,  
 Of His precious life atoning,  
 Then I repented of my sins  
 And won the victory.

- (3) There is victory now and for eternity. The sound of **victory** echoes throughout this great hymn (Victory in Jesus). I will highlight the repetition of the use of victory throughout this great hymn.
  - **Note the last two lines of verse 1**  
 Then I repented of my sins  
 And won the victory

- **Note the last two lines of verse 2**  
And somehow Jesus came and bro't  
To me the victory
- **Note the last two lines of verse 3**  
And some sweet day I'll sing up there  
The song of victory
- **Note the first two and last two lines of the chorus**
  - **First two lines of the chorus**  
O victory in Jesus  
My Savior forever
  - **Last two lines of the chorus**  
He plunged me to victory,  
Beneath the cleansing flood.

- (4) Absolutely! There is victory over sin in Jesus Christ our Redeemer!!
- He came to save from sin (Matt. 1:21)
  - As noted above, His ultimate goal is to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8)
- (5) You have seen evidences of Satan's work throughout the world but Satan's defeat was realized at the cross of Jesus Christ and Satan's eternal doom is certain!!
- **The resurrection of Christ attested to that secured victory.**  
**Rom. 1:4 Amplified Bible**  
And [as to His divine nature] according to the Spirit of holiness was openly designated the Son of God in power [in a striking, triumphant and miraculous manner] by His resurrection from the dead, even Jesus Christ our Lord (the Messiah, the Anointed One)."
  - **Jesus Christ has authority, power and dominion!!**
    - See Matt. 28:18-20
    - **Matt. 28:18 Amplified Bible**  
"Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and earth has been given to me."
  - **Satan is Defeated!!**  
**Heb. 2:14 NKJV**  
Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who hath the power of death, that is the devil
  - **Satan's eternal doom is certain**  
**Rev. 20:10 NKJV**  
"The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and false prophet are. And they will be tormented forever and ever."

- (d) **Satan's power, rule and reign over lives is now destroyed and by death and by the resurrection of Christ.**
- (e) **The cross of Jesus Christ was (is) a pivotal point in the history of man.** The gates of hell must have rejoiced while Christ was on the cross and in the tomb but little did they know that He had (has) power over sin, death and the grave!! **For the entire world today there is "Victory in Jesus!!"**

**NOTE BRIEFLY:**

- (1) **Satan's power to charge men with sin is now "cast out."**
- Mankind now has the power (the resource) to escape the penalty of sin. Jesus Christ paid the penalty of sin; He died for the sins of the world.
  - See 1 Peter 2:24; Rom. 8:3; etc.
- (2) **Satan's power to cause death is now "cast out."**
- Physically, we will die; unless we are raptured before we die (1 Thess. 4:16-17), but even facing physical death the believer has no fear (1 Cor. 15, NB Vv. 15-58).
  - That fear of death, the uncertainty that characterizes the unrighteous, are all removed for the child of God. For example, this is seen in the account of Stephen (Acts 7:54-60, also of Paul Acts 21:1-14, NB v. 13; 2 Tim. 4:6-9; also the many believers throughout history who were tortured and murdered for their Christian faith)
  - Jesus Christ became man's substitute in death (Heb. 2:14-15).
  - Because of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, death will be eternally banished for the believers!! The "Living Waters," "The Tree of Life" etc. God's permanent presence etc. will be realized by the redeemed as man lives eternally in the very presence of God!!! **Read prayerfully and carefully Rev. 21 and 22 as well as other relevant Scriptures!!!**
    - **There will be a complete change including the banishing of death:**  
Rev. 21:4; Isa. 25:8; 2 Tim. 1:10
    - **Living Waters/Water of Life made available:** Ezek. 47:1; Zech. 14:8; John 4:10; 7:37, 38; Rev. 7:17; 22:1, 2, 17
    - **Tree of Life:** Gen. 2:9; 3:22; Ezek. 47:7, 12; Rev. 2:7; 22:2
- (3) **Satan's power to cause man to be separated from God is now "cast out."**
- There is no need for anyone to go to hell!! God has made a way out!!
  - Jesus Christ took upon Himself our transgressions and as a result was separated from God at that special moment on the cross Matt. 27:46-49; Psa. 22.
  - Jesus Christ bore our sins, our reproach!! Isa. 53 NB Vv. 1-6, 12; Heb. 9:28; 1Peter 2:24; 1 John 3:5.
  - Because of the redemption through Jesus Christ, man can now live with God forever 1 Peter 3:18; Rom. 8:11.

(4) **Satan’s power to enslave man with the habit of sin and shame is now “cast out.”**

- The enslavement of being a **habitual sinner** has been broken; it is possible to live above the **practice of sin** (This is our current topic being studied in **1 John 3:4-10**; you are encouraged to read the chapter).
- By His death, Christ made it possible for man to be free from sin.
- **The believer, cleansed by the blood of Christ, separated from the world unto God, purged from the pollution of sin, he (the believer) has crucified the carnal nature and live under the control of the Holy Spirit and is thus able to live as a new man; indeed, he is a new man!!**
- This new life gives man what is necessary to conquer the enslaving habit of sin by the power of God’s Spirit Rom. 6, NB Vv. 6, 11; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3 NB Vv. 1-4, with emphasis on v. ; 1 Peter 2:24.

***Beloved! Jesus Christ paid it ALL with His precious life!!! (John 12:31-3; Col. 2, NB Vv. 6-15, with emphasis on Vv. 1-15.***

**F. Dedicated Through the Implantation of the Word (1 John 3:9)**

**1 John 3:9**

**NKJV:** “Whosoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin because he has been born of God.”

**Amplified Bible:** “No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practice sin, for God’s nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God.”

***John discusses this point based on the connection between regeneration and relinquishing of sin.***

***1 John 3:9 is our highlighted verse in Vv 4-10; and the verse that led to the development of these two lessons (Lessons 9 and 10).***

**1. “... born of God ...” (1 John 3:9a)**

- (a) We will not have another detailed discussion, again, on this fundamentally essential doctrine (“Born Again”). We have discussed this topic throughout this study; if you desire see Chapter 1 Lesson 3, Chapter 2 Lesson 4, as well as other areas where it is referred to directly or indirectly.
- (b) I am not saying the following in a derogatory manner (God forbid). It is amazing how many all over the world just love to (1) Be referred to as being “born again”, or (2) Claiming to be ambassadors for God or (3) Professing to be Spirit filled believers (4) etc; and they have not taken the first step **to be a genuine “born**

**again” believer!** Irrespective of how popular, how much excitement that may be created at least in the eyes of man, it is very important to remember:

(1) Repentance is commanded of God and necessary for the forgiveness of sins.

This first step is mandatory before anything else is accomplished.

(2) We cannot be sanctified unless we are born again.

(3) We cannot be baptized in (with) the Holy Spirit unless we are sanctified.

(4) The following quotes are taken from our (Church of God) “Declaration of Faith”:

- **Article Six**

“We believe in sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.”

- **Article Eight**

“We believe in the baptism with the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.”

(c) The following quotes are a few pointers from previous lessons as it relates to the “born again” experience.

(1) The new birth is not a makeover; it is not a refurbishing, etc. but a new man created by Jesus Christ.

(2) Each person, through the Lord Jesus Christ is made into a **new kind of person – a new man in God.**

(3) **Eph. 4:24 Amplified Bible**

“And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God’s image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.”

(d) Jesus taught us that this experience is imperative John 3:1-8. This experience is referred to as “born again,” “regeneration,” “spiritual birth,” etc.

(e) Without the new birth no one can enter the kingdom of God (John 3:3-8), and receive eternal life (John 3:15-17) and as noted above, no one can be sanctified nor be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Ghost) without these experiences (Acts 2:38).

(f) As noted before “regeneration is another term used to define “born again”, here is a reminder of what it means: **Regeneration is a re-creation of spiritual life in the human heart (John 3:6; Eph. 4:23-24) by God the Holy Spirit (John 3:6-8; Titus 3:5).**

(1) Through this process eternal life from God is imparted to the believer’s heart (John 3:16; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 5:11).

- Thus he or she becomes a child of God (John 1:12; Rom. 8:16-17; Gal. 3:26).

- And a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:9-10)

(2) He or she is no longer conformed to this world (Rom. 12:2) but is now “the new man, which is after God, created in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph. 4:24).

(g) As we have seen in 1 John 3:9, this new birth is of God (see also John 3:9-19).

(1) It is not by our baptism nor church membership, etc. but wholly and solely the work of God.

- Review Lessons 5, 6 and 7 (chapter 2) where we discussed 1 Peter 1:13-25.
- Man's deliverance comes only by that which is incorruptible and nonperishable (1 Peter 1:18-19, 22-25)

**Note carefully (study each prayerfully):**

1 Peter 1:18-21

1 Peter 1:22-25

(2) **John 3:6 Amplified Bible**

"What is born of [from] the flesh is flesh [of the physical is physical]; and what is born of the Spirit is spirit."

2. **"Whoever has been born of God does not sin ..." (1 John 3:9 NKJV)**

(a) The result of the new birth is deliverance.

(1) The believer is free from living in and practicing sin.

(2) The verb "to sin" is in the present tense and means:

- To continue in sin
- To constantly sin
- To practice sin
- To habitually sin
- To live in sin

(b) **"Christian Perfection"** this was briefly discussed before.

(1) **John is not saying that we have reached a place of sinless perfection, in which it is impossible for the believer to sin (at least not in this life).**

- As noted several times before in this study, we are saved from the compulsion of sin but the possibility is a reality.
- We also saw in 1 John 2:1, and unlike what so many teach, John is not saying a believer must sin but observe **1 John 2:1**
  - **"... that you sin not ..."**
  - **"... if any man sin ..."**
- Absolutely, **sin is not compulsory**, watch and pray that you enter not into temptation (Matt. 26:41; etc.)

(2) We have also briefly defined "Christian Perfection" in chapter 1.

- Remember "Christian Perfection" is not:
  - Absolute or Divine Perfection ... that belongs only to God.
  - Angelic Perfection ... that belongs only to angels.
  - Adamic Perfection ... that refers to Adam before "The Fall" when he was the embodiment of all purity and goodness.
  - It is not perfect knowledge, etc.
- **In essence "Christian Perfection" is a perfection of love!**
  - Loving God with our ALL and others as we love ourselves (Deut. 6:4-5, Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31)



- **In reality genuine love makes a world of difference!** (1) It is proven by our obedience to God (John 14:15, 21, 23-25; etc.) (2) It proves whether we are genuinely born of God (1 John 3:10-12, 15-24; 1 John 4; etc.)
  - Remember as we have already seen, sincere love is a mark of true discipleship (John 13:35). But we do need to move on.
- (3) **What John is communicating in 1 John 3:9a when he states ...” “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin ...” (KJV)**
- It means:
    - He, the believer, cannot go on sinning.
    - Paul has precisely the same idea in Rom. 6:1: “Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?” (*This was discussed in chapter 2 lesson 2*)
  - The Amplified Bible has helped to clarify the message communicated in 1 John 3:9a  
**1 John 3:9a Amplified Bible**  
 “No one born again (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly and habitually] practice sin ...”
- (c) **To be born of God is to be inwardly renewed, and restored to a holy integrity or rectitude of nature by the power of the Spirit of God (Rom. 15:16; etc.).**
- (1) Such a person does not commit (practice) sin.
- Does not work iniquity nor practice disobedience.
  - He does not because such is contrary to his new nature and the regenerate character of his spirit.
- (2) He does not practice sin because the seed remains in him (*Below, I will briefly discuss “seed” as used, here in 1 John 3:9, below*).
- (d) The following two quotes are taken from Life in the Spirit Study Bible.
- (1) “Those born of God cannot make sin a habitual practice in their lives (see 1 John 3:9). As a believer, one’s desires are changed to love God sincerely and endeavor, from the heart, to please God and to avoid evil (1 John 1:5-7). This is accomplished only through the grace given to believers by Jesus Christ (1 John 2:3-11, 15-17, 24-29; 3:6-24; 4:7-8; 5:1), through a sustained relationship with Christ (John 15:4) and through a dependence on the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:1-14).”
- (2) “Those who continue living in immorality and giving themselves to the world’s lifestyle, no matter what they profess with their lips, demonstrate that they are still unregenerate children of Satan (1 John 3:6-10).”
3. **“... for his seed remaineth in him ...” (1 John 3:9c KJV)**
- 1 John 3:9c**  
**LASB:** “... because God’s life is in them. So they can’t keep on sinning because they are children of God.”  
**Amplified Bible:** “... for God’s nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remain permanently within him] ...”

- (a) **Renewing grace is an abiding principle.**
- (1) Pure religion is not an art, an acquired skill, etc. but a new nature (regeneration ... renews the sinful nature or quickens the soul that was dead in trespasses and sins)
  - (2) As a result this nature that abides in him (the believer) he cannot habitually sin (and I have stressed throughout this study the importance of **abiding in Christ, John 15:1-17; 1 John 2:6, 28; 3:6; 2 John 9**).
    - He cannot continue the course and practice of sin.
    - He cannot so sin as to be designated a sinner in opposition to being a servant of God.
    - **He cannot habitually sin as he did before he was born of God!!**
- (b) Sin in the life of the born again would be a restraint (inhibition) and obstruction (impediment).
- (c) With the divine seed or nature of God implanted within the believer, the believer cannot go on living in sin.
- (1) **There is a light in his mind which shows the evil and malignity of sin.**
  - (2) There is a bias upon his heart which disposes him to loathe and hate sin.
  - (3) There is that spiritual seminal principle or disposition that breaks the force and fullness of sinful acts. (*“Seminal”: “seed” ... some use “sperm” also mean “seed”*).
  - (4) The divine nature of God will pester and provoke the believer and convict him to the point that he cannot stand it.
  - (5) There is a disposition for humiliation and repentance for sin, when it has been committed.
  - (6) **If he continues on and on in sin, it is clear evidence that he has never been born of God or he has become apostate!!**
    - **1 Tim. 4:1-2 Amplified Bible**  
 “But The [Holy] Spirit distinctly and expressly declares that in latter times some will turn away from the faith, giving attention to deluding and seducing spirits and doctrines that demons teach. Through the hypocrisy and pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared (cauterized).”
    - See also 2 Tim. 4:4; Heb. 3:12; 2 Peter 3:17.
4. **“... he cannot sin because he is born of God.” (1 John 3:9d KJV)**
- (a) The genuine believer loves God because of what God has done for him in Christ.
    - (1) God has loved man in the most supreme way possible, by giving up His only Son to die for man.
    - (2) Therefore the believer loves God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength, (Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31) and want to please God.
    - (3) This love for God keeps the genuine believer away from sin. Remember what Joseph said when Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce him.  
**Gen. 39:9 (KJV)**

“There is none greater in this house than I, neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: **how can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”**

- (b) He who is born of God cannot sin or cannot habitually sin
- (1) The unregenerate person is morally unable for what is righteously good.
  - (2) The regenerate person is happily disabled for sin.
    - There is a restraint, an embargo, laid upon his sinning powers.
    - It goes against him seriously and deliberately to sin.
    - He strives to be a person of integrity and rectitude as we noted of Joseph.
- (c) Briefly noting: **“Born of God and the seed”**
- (1) What is it that frees the believer from sin? Being born of God, possessing God’s seed within.
  - (2) In a general usage we have in Scriptures where “seed” refers to the Word of God (Matt. 13:24, 27, 32, 38; 2 Cor. 9:10)
  - (3) Because of its universal usage the seed of God may also be applied as:
    - It is the seed of the new birth (John 3:3-5)
    - It is the seed of the new creation (2 Cor. 5:17)
    - It is the seed of the new man (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10)
    - It is the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4)
    - It is the incorruptible seed of God (1 Peter 1:23)
- (d) **The seed of God within the believer as used in 1 John 3:9.**

**NOTE**

Scholars differ in regards to several areas in this passage (1 John 3:4-10) and verse 9 is one of those controversial issues. We will not get into the debate but will simply continue to present the truth as led of God.

You will observe that some translations and other reference books use “nature” to explain the usage of “seed.” You will also note that some translators use: “sperm,” “principle,” “nature,” etc. where these words are used instead of “seed” (1 John 3:9)

Somehow “nature” seems to be a very simple way to explain this usage. However, the term “nature of God” can involve some detailed discussion. In order to expedite time allowed for discussion, I will briefly comment. Our (Church of God) Bishop’s Study Manual states: **There are three significant components as to the way mankind reflects the nature of God.** Those three areas are (1) Social being (2) Capacities of personhood and (3) Expression of personhood.

In regards to the “Expression of personhood,” four things are listed of which I will lift out one, which is relevant to what we are currently studying. That fourth pointer is: “Conscience, in the ability to distinguish between things that are right from the things that are wrong.”

For those who have totally rejected that the “seed of God” has absolutely nothing to do with either the Word of God or the Holy Spirit; my questions are: (1) What is within the believer that is the source of guidance or control” (2) Yes, we have a new nature through the new birth but what is going to enhance that new nature to maintain purity? We are all aware that of the account in Luke 11:15-28; where the house (life) was cleansed and remains unoccupied only for the demons to re-enter and with a greater devastation than before. **Beloved, we do need both the Word of God and the blessed Holy Spirit in order to maintain the life God desires of us.** Also let us not forget: (a) The Word of God is the great **instrument** in the sinner’s purification (Psa.119:9; John 15:3; etc.) (b) The Holy Spirit is the great **agent** in the purification of man’s soul (Rom. 15:16; 2 Thess. 2:13)

(1) Another way to state this fact is: The seed (nature, principle, etc.) of God within the believer is enabled by the Holy Spirit, the very Spirit of God Himself!! He is the one who enables the Word treasured in our hearts to live, based upon the requirements of God. The new nature receives the help it needs to continue in the light! He is needed if we are to maintain a life of righteousness and holiness. Note the following statements, briefly stated:

- It is He who helps the believer to conquer sin and keep from sinning.
- It is the Spirit of God who stirs the believer to love and focus upon Christ and His mission, instead of upon the world and its pleasures and possessions.
- It is the Spirit of God who stirs the believer not to sin.
- The Holy Spirit is the Agent of the Church (Universal) ... without Him we cannot function as we ought to, according to God’s purpose for His work here on earth.
- That is why it is so essentially important to completely yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit!!

**1 Thess. 5:19 Amplified Bible**

Do not quench (suppress or subdue) the [Holy] Spirit.”

(2) The following quotes are taken from the Bishop’s Study Manual (Church of God).

- “The Holy Spirit is the immediate ruling presence of God in the world.”
- “In light of the holiness of God, we are commended to walk in the Spirit and not the flesh. The Spirit and flesh are in constant conflict, a perpetual war, which will continue until we are taken home to heaven. Our part in this conflict is to yield to the Holy Spirit. Paul said that those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh (Gal. 5:24 ... also verse 25).”
- **“Spiritual power for holiness of life is imparted by divine guidance of the Holy Spirit. “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” (Rom. 8:14 ESV)**

(3) The Holy Spirit is the very essence of the Church!! *(Note a few references):*

- He is here solely for the Church (Universal) (John 14:16-17)
  - He is our Comforter (John 14:6)
  - He is our teacher (Luke 12:12; John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:13; 1 John 2:27)
  - He abides in us (John 14:16-17)
  - He guides us into all truths (John 16:13)
  - He gives life (spiritual life) (John 6:63; Rom. 8:11; 2 Cor. 3:6; 1 Peter 3:18)
  - Etc.
- (4) Oh! Bless the Lord! He (the Holy Spirit) was not only promised (John 16:7) but He the Comforter has come!! And not only for the **apostolic period** but for all generations until we go to heaven (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:38-39). ***(Apostolic period: From the time the Great Commission was given (Matt. 28:19-20) to the time of the last apostle).***
- The first verse and the refrain of the hymn: **The Comforter Has Come.**  
 Oh spread the tidings 'round wherever man is found  
 Wherever human hearts and human woes abound  
 Let every Christian tongue proclaim the joyful sound!  
 The Comforter has come!  
**Refrain**  
 The Comforter has come, the Comforter has come!  
 The Holy Ghost from heav'n, the Father's promise giv'n  
 Oh spread the tidings 'round, wherever man is found.  
 The Comforter has come!
- (5) Read John 16:6-16
- (e) **He who is born of God is not a habitual sinner (1 John 3:9)**
- (1) **1 John 5:4 Amplified Bible**  
 "For whatever is born of God is victorious over the world; and this is the victory that conquers the world, even our faith."
- (2) **2 Cor. 7:1 Amplified Bible**  
 "THEREFORE, SINCE these [great] promises are ours, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates and defiles body and spirit, and bring [our] consecration to completeness in the [reverential] fear of God."
- (3) See also Eph. 5:1-6; 2 Tim. 2:4; 1 John 2:1-2, 15-17; 5:1-5; Heb. 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16.
- (4) **2 Peter 3:11 Amplified Bible**  
 "Since all these things are thus in the process of being dissolved what kind of person ought [each of] you to be [in the meanwhile] in consecrated and holy behavior and devout and godly qualities."

### 1 John 3:9 ESV

"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 is born of God."

## G. Discrimination Between the Children of God and the Children of the Devil (1 John 3:10)

### 1 John 3:10

**NKJV:** In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother."

**Amplified Bible:** "By this is made clear who take their nature from God and are children and who take their nature from the devil and are his children: no one who does not practice righteousness [who does not conform to God's will in purpose, thought, and action] is of God; neither is anyone who does not love his brother (his fellow believer in Christ)."

*John discusses the discrimination between the children of God and the children of the devil.*

*(Let us briefly define "Discrimination": (1) Differentiation (2) Distinction (3) Recognition and understanding of the difference between one thing and another.*

### INTRODUCTORY NOTES

1. "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil ..." (1 John 3:10 KJV)  
*"... children of God . . . children of the devil ..."*
2. **1 John 3:10** is the heart and conclusion of John's teaching seen in **1 John 2:28-3:10**.
  - (a) He has warned his readers not to be deceived about the nature of salvation (1 John 3:7).
  - (b) Consequently, the believer must reject any theology that alleges . . .
    - (1) . . . that one can continue to sin, do the works of the devil (1 John 3:8) . . .
    - (2) . . . that one can do harm to others (1 John 3:14-18) . . .
    - (3) . . . and yet be a child of God who is saved and destined for heaven.
  - (c) Contrary to this false teaching, John clearly teaches that anyone who continue to sin, "is of the devil" (1 John 3:8) and "is not of God."
  - (d) If those who **habitually** practice sin claim to possess eternal life and be God's children, they are deceived and are liars (1 John 2:4).
  - (e) **Furthermore, what characterizes true children of God is a love for God shown by keeping His commandments (1 John 5:2) and demonstrating genuine concern for the spiritual and physical needs of other believers (1 John 3:16-17).**
3. **1 John 2:28-29 NKJV**  
 "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him."

(a) I have made frequent reference to the fact that if we are going to persevere we must be preserved and we can be preserved only by **abiding in Christ and Christ abiding in us (Jude 1; 2 Tim 4:18)**.

(1) We abide in fellowship with Jesus Christ by being **obedient** (Luke 11:28: John 14:23; etc.)

(2) Only by abiding obediently we will have confidence ... at His coming (1 John 2: 28). The Christian who **practices righteousness (1 John 2:29)** shows that he has been given eternal life by Him who is **righteous (is born of Him) (1 John 2:29)**.

(b) **There is victory over sin and Satan but only through Jesus Christ (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:28-39, NB v. 37; 2 Tim. 1:12; etc.)**

*Obviously, the contents of 1 John 3:10 has already been discussed in other verses and other places throughout the study. However, I will briefly note two additional pointers.*

*The two pointers are (a) **Distinction has been Made** and (b) **Description of Character by Lifestyle**. Actually, 1 John 3:10 can be tied in with as a separate paragraph from verses 10 through 17. This paragraph is possible because of the emphasis placed on love which is evident through the epistle of 1 John. I will present an outline for 1 John 3:10-17 after the close of this current pointer.*

## 1. **Distinction has been Made**

(a) Terms like distinctiveness, holiness, etc. are most unwelcomed in this Church age by so many, but the truth must be proclaimed.

(1) In so many situations some churches are more concerned about pleasing and attracting the crowd than focusing upon the perfect will of God.

(2) There are too many who, profess to be Christians, are satisfied with mere lip service when the heart and manner of living are inconsistent with the will of God (Ezek. 33:31; Matt. 15:8; Mark 7:6).

### (b) **Defining "Distinction"**

(1) Definition 1: A difference between similar things or people...

Synonyms: difference, contrast, dissimilarity, variance, etc.

(2) Definition 2: Excellence that sets someone or something apart from others.

Synonyms: importance, significance, consequence, etc.

*In essence, "distinction" as used in our current study, is referring to "difference." In fact the antonym for "distinction" is "resemblance." As a professed child of God, if you are not different by the way you live in comparison with how the unregenerate lives something is definitively wrong!!*

- (c) There is much to lose where the people of God resembles the environment in which they minister.
- (1) This we saw earlier when we studied the situation with the churches at Corinth (1 Corinthians) and Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22) in Lesson 2 (Chapter 2).
  - (2) Throughout the Bible, we have witnessed the disaster when the people of God integrate with the world and adapt to its ungodly way of living.
    - Samson’s weakness was not just the women but the ungodly women whose way of life was inconsistent with the Hebrews, who were called out to be a light to the heathen nations.
    - King Solomon, despite all the glory and glitter, majesty and might of his kingdom saw it crumble because of his association with ungodly women in his life.
  - (3) Israel was called out to be a light and herald of the reality of the One True and Living God.
    - They were to maintain a “different” lifestyle, (Lev. 20:23-24; Judges 2:2; etc. Prayerfully read the Book of Leviticus, etc.)
    - That distinctiveness that was to be maintained by the Hebrews was commanded by God, for example see Ex. 23:2; Deut. 12:30; 14:1-2; etc.
  - (4) Israel had several problems that hindered them from maintaining the distinctiveness required of them (*I have time to briefly list only a few but you can go through the Scriptures and add to the list if you so desire*)
    - They were a mixed multitude (rabble: noisy, unruly, etc) (Ex. 12:38; Num. 11:4)
    - They lusted for the things of the past (Num. 11:4-5)
    - They were ungrateful despite all God had done for them; example of ingratitude see (Num. 11:6; Ex. 16; **Isa. 1, NB Vv. 1-9**; etc.)
    - They enjoyed living by their own standards (Judges 21:25)
    - **They wanted to be like the people of the land**  
**1 Sam. 8 NB v. 5 (KJV)**  
*“... now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”*
    - See also 2 Kings 17, NB Vv. 8-23; etc.
- (d) **The distinction is compulsory!!**  
*Time is available only for a few examples.*
- (1) Show me your company, it says who you are!!
    - We are identified by our associates, whose lifestyle generally attracts us or we adapt their manner of living or practices.
    - We are acquainted with the account of “Israel’s Golden Calf” in Ex. 32. Note carefully verses 25-26. **A distinction must be maintained even in today’s world!!**
  - (2) The challenge continues beloved, a choice MUST be made!!! See Josh 24:14-16 and 1 Kings 18:21.
  - (3) **The imperativeness of separation** *One example also referred to in another lesson.*



- **Abram (Abraham)** was called out of a pagan background.
  - His call was a call of “separation.” Separation from the idolatrous, sinful way of life by the people of Mesopotamia, including his family.
  - Abram (later Abraham) was called to be “different;” the **distinction** was a matter of top priority!! (Gen. 11:27-12).
- (e) The Church (Universal) is “Called Out” (*Discussed in Lesson 4, see also Lessons 5 through 10 ... if you desire*) I will repeat one reference ... read 2 Cor. 6 and note carefully Vv. 16-17.

**2 Cor. 6:16-17 Amplified Bible**

“What agreement [can there be between] a temple of the living God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in and with and among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. [Exod. 25:8; 29:45; Lev. 26:12; Jer. 31:1; Ezek. 37:27]. **So come out from among [unbelievers], and separate (sever) yourselves from them, says the Lord, and touch not [any] unclean thing; then I will receive you kindly and treat you with favor, [Isa. 55:11.]”**

(f) **NO MIDDLE GROUND!!**

(1) The mixture will not work!!

- We do not add water in our gas tanks.
- Water and oil do not mix.
- Day and night differs.
- Darkness differs from light
- Wrong is not right.
- Bitter is not sweet.
- Unrighteousness is not righteousness
- Etc.

(2) Our text clearly shows the distinction: “Children of God” differs from “Children of the devil.” (1 John 3:10)

2. **Description of Character by Lifestyle.**

(a) Another statement that I have used frequently is: “Character is who you are in the dark!”

(b) No matter what we profess externally there is a distinction by our lifestyle.

**1 John 3:10b Amplified Bible**

“... no one who does not practice righteousness [who does not conform to God’s will in purpose, thought, and action] is of God, neither is anyone who does not love his brother (his fellow believer in Christ).”

(1) I have made frequent reference to the term “Christian Perfection,” which is another term used for holiness.

- This is a call, a summons **to love God** with OUR ALL and our fellow men as ourselves.
- See Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31

(2) As noted before 1 John 3:10 is associated with Vv. 10-17 on which I will briefly comment below.

(c) **WHO ARE THE RIGHTEOUS? WHO ARE THE UNRIGHTEOUS?**

**Reminder:** *This study is based on a definition of “the righteous” taken from our (Church of God) Bishop’s Study Manual. This definition has been quoted before but I will repeat and will also include a quote from the same source defining “the wicked.”*

(1) **“The Righteous”:** “... those who believe in Christ. They are called righteous because they are clothed in Christ’s righteousness, they are created anew in righteousness and true holiness; and have given themselves to obedience in pursuit of holy living.”

(2) **“The Wicked”:** The basic condition of wickedness is failure to believe in Christ for salvation. This unbelief produces a rejection of life of righteousness and holiness and a refusal to trust in the power and grace of God.”

(d) **There is too many who deliberately, knowingly, habitually sin and profess to be in right relationship with God.** *(This is another issue noted several times before)*

(1) Let us face the facts, all of us have had our good days and bad days; bad days when we failed God and most regrettably so!! However, at this point I am, referring to those who practice sin without being penitent, showing no remorse, or neither having a broken and contrite heart in sincerity **before God!**

(2) Some of these individuals, sing, shout, dance about, hold positions, etc. but they continue to live in sin!!

(3) Some are quick to point fingers at others, quick to condemn, criticize etc. but they continue to live in sin!!

(4) Some enjoy digging up the past of others who have confessed, got cleansed and are walking the walk; and these, their accusers are still living in sin!!

(5) Yes, there are those who do struggle with certain situations but . . .

- They are honestly aware and admit to their true situation.
- They are willing to be helped, desiring deep within to be pleasing to God.
- God is rich in mercy, full of compassion, and is ready to forgive, heal and restore (1 John 1:9; 2:1-2). These honest individuals will seek God and find the help they need.
- What is important is that they **genuinely** seek help and with determination make up their minds not to return to the old ways (John 8:10; Rom. 6:12; etc.).

(e) **It is natural for the child of the devil to neglect righteousness**

(1) He does not see in any way that he is obligated to God.

(2) This insensitivity was displayed by Pharaoh when Moses first appeared before him.

**Ex. 5:2 (KJV)**

“And Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go.”

(3) In **Ex. 5:2** there are some characteristics seen in Pharaoh that is also seen in the unrighteous. Let us look again at the verse and note the following:

- Idolized Self

- Impiety Displayed
  - Ignorance of God is obvious (voluntary or involuntary)
  - Insubordination, a main Issue
  - There are other features not seen in this immediate verse nor highlighted in the above list.
- (4) For the unrighteous, it is natural for him to disregard God and His holy standards because the old man, the depraved disposition still abides within. We have discussed before that such condition exists because of the devil who was the first sinner.
- (f) **Validity Test!!**
- (1) The verse (1 John 3:10) also says the unrighteous does not love fellow Christians (or Christians in general).
- (2) It is a proven factor that the world will always hate the Children of God (Christians)
- Remember the Church is a “called out community in a hostile world.”
  - To be hated by the world must be expected (Matt. 5:10-12; Luke 6:22; John 16:33; 17:14; 1 John 3:13).
- (3) **Love reveals one’s True Nature!!**
- I will be brief as this has been discussed earlier in the study (*See lessons 6 and 7*).
  - Love for one another shows whether or not we love God.
  - God is love; therefore, if we love God we are bound to love one another.
  - **In fact, since God is love, it is absolutely impossible to love God and not love one another.**
  - If we have and hold feeling against anyone else, this is clear proof that we do not love God.
  - **The great mark of loving God is the mark of loving one another (John 15:35 . . . and also referred to as the proof of discipleship).**
  - We are all accustomed with, the words: “I Love You.” It’s interesting to see just how lightly we use these precious words; with this in mind, allow me to briefly note the love that should be evident among believers... ..
    - It is not merely the feel good; tickle the ear, emotionally stirring on-the-surface-love. It goes much deeper!!
    - It is not the love with hidden motives mainly because of personal benefits ... it goes much deeper!!
    - It is not the mere usage of “I love you more,” which is so often said hypocritically!! It goes deeper!! Much deeper!!
  - **This love is “The agape love, the selfless sacrificial love of God (1 Cor. 13).**
    - It comes naturally because of the new birth and makes us love one another with a pure heart fervently (1 Peter 1:22).
    - It is the standard of Christ’s love (John 15:12).
    - It is sincere love (Rom. 12:9).

- It is abounding love (1 Thess. 3:12).

**1 Cor. 13:13 NKJV**

“And now abideth faith hope, and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love.”

**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

**DUE TO THE VOLUME OF MATERIAL PRESENTED ABOVE, I WILL INCLUDE;**

1. The outline and brief presentation for 1 John 3:10-17
2. Closing thoughts on the Wholesome Life (*consisting of a selection of references used studying “The Wholesome Life”*)

**IN LESSON 11 (OUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR LESSONS 9 AND 10).**

**2 Tim. 2:15**

**KJV**

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

**Amplified Bible**

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly, analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of truth.”

## Chapter 2 Lesson 10 Review Questions

1. List and briefly explain two ways the term “Little children,” may be applied.

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2. Briefly explain what two lifestyles are highlighted in 1 Tim. 5:5-6.

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3. Rearrange the following verse correctly. Give the reference and translation taken from. “He is righteous; let no one deceive you little children. Righteousness is righteous just as he who practices.”

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4. Briefly explain: Who are the ones acceptable to God.

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5. Complete the following:

The practice of (a) \_\_\_\_\_ cannot (b) \_\_\_\_\_  
without a (c) \_\_\_\_\_ of (d) \_\_\_\_\_ and  
(e) \_\_\_\_\_.

6. While 1 John 3:5, 8 are similar in nature, what is the main difference observed in v. 8?

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7. Explain "He who sins is of the devil ..." (1 John 3:8a)

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8. "Sin originates with Satan." Explain and give references associated with this statement.

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9. Choose the correct answer:

"To **practice** sin is to be distinguishing who one really is." This statement is implying:

- (a) Adam is to be blamed we are not at fault for our sins.
- (b) There is no hope for anyone to live a victorious life above sin.
- (c) By one's actions, he is acknowledging that he is living under the power and dominion of sin.
- (d) A believer can practice sin and remain in harmony with God.

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10. Complete the following:

Sin is not only a (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_

(Rom. 6 and 7), or a (c) \_\_\_\_\_ evil (Rom. 5:12), etc. it

(d) \_\_\_\_\_ man from (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 3).

11. What two things are experienced, when we admit our sins and seek God's forgiveness and purity?

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12. (a) Answer true or false (b) Explain your answer.

According to 1 John 2:1-2, each believer will practice sin, no matter how committed they are.

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13. What three steps are necessary to obtain victory over prevailing sin as recommended in our lesson?

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14. The ultimate reason for Jesus Christ coming to earth is noted in 1 John 3:8b. Explain in more detail what is conveyed in this reference.

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15. The defeat of Satan was realized at the cross of Jesus Christ and Satan's eternal doom is certain. List with references the four pointers relevant to this statement, as noted in our lesson.

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16. Satan’s power, rule and reign over lives are now destroyed **by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ**. As a result what four areas of Satan’s power are noted in our lesson as being “**cast out?**” (Note briefly ... give references).

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17. Complete the following:

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ is a re-creation of (b) \_\_\_\_\_  
life in the human (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (John 3;6 Eph. 4:23-24) by God the  
(d) \_\_\_\_\_ (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (John 3:6-8; Titus 3:5).

18. “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin ...” (1 John 3:9a). Briefly explain this quote.

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19. Complete the following:

To be born of God is to be inwardly (a) \_\_\_\_\_, and  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_ to a (c) \_\_\_\_\_  
(d) \_\_\_\_\_ or rectitude of (e) \_\_\_\_\_ by  
the (f) \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit of God (Rom. 15:16; etc.).

20. In our lesson, what reasons were given why believers cannot **habitually** sin as he did before he was born of God?



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21. What are some synonyms for “seed” as used in 1 John 3:9?

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22. What other references can you give in addition to 1 John 3:9, showing that, he who is born of God will not habitually sin? (Six references OK)

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23. Complete the following:

“Furthermore, what characterizes (a) \_\_\_\_\_ children of God is a  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_ for God shown by (c) \_\_\_\_\_  
His (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 5:2) and demonstrating  
(e) \_\_\_\_\_ concern for the (f) \_\_\_\_\_  
(g) \_\_\_\_\_ of other believers (1 John 3:16-17)”

24. (a) Define the word “distinction”(b) In your own words state why it is this important to all believers? Base your answer on Scripture.

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25. What reasons were given in our lesson why it is natural for the unrighteous to **habitually sin**?

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26. In what way love reveals one’s true nature (as discussed in our lesson?)

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