

CHAPTER THREE

- Vs 1 Contemplate the greatness of the Divine Love which the Father has lavished on us - that we should be called "children of God"
- "and such we are" - not in the better manuscripts
- called - that which one is - 1Cor 1:2
- Believers are called "children of God" because they are
- An appreciation of this reality is "lost" on the world.
They do not recognize believers as God's children - in fact they see them as arrogant for claiming such a fact.
- NOTE: In all things pertaining to God - believers and un-believers do not see things the same way. They live in different worlds!
- Vs 2 Though we are now children of God, there is no physical evidence of this, which an eye can see.
The physical changes in Christians await the coming of Christ.
- We do know the day when our changes will become visible:
1 Cor 15:51-54; Phil 3:20-21
These "changes" will be the result of "seeing Him just as He is".
(This ability to "see Him" must wait until that future date also.)
- Vs 3 Every one (not everyone) who is fixed on this future day, purifies himself.
Taking our eyes off this day will impact our lifestyle.
Such a focus results in the believer looking more and more Christlike.
- Vs 4 In contrast: the opposite of light is darkness!
The opposite action of purifying oneself - is - to practice sin - or lawlessness!
All sin finds its source in lawlessness.
Failure to be controlled
"In" uncontrol

Vs 5-6

When He came into the world, one of His objectives was the removal of sin from our lives.

A reasonable application to this truth is that one who is "abiding" in Him would appear as He appears.

In Him there is no sin! Rom 6:1-14

Sin is a product of ignorance and blindness toward God - "no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him"

Sin is never the product of seeing and knowing God.

Sin is never a part of the experience of abiding in Christ.

No one who is abiding (present tense) in Him, sins.

Insofar as God is experienced by a believer, that experience is sinless.

Sin does not flow from the "new nature" Rom 7:14-25

Vs 7-8

Do not be deceived by the anti-christs.

Do not be led astray by their false teachings.

1. righteousness finds its source in Him
2. sin finds its source in the devil.

All sin of whatever kind or degree, is Satanic in nature

a. the devil has been sinning from the beginning Jn 8:44

b. to take part in sin is to take part in his activity

At the same time it is opposing the work of the Son of God who came to put an end to that activity (the devil's work).

Believers are to overcome the evil one and not to participate in what he is.

Vs 9

One who is born of God does not sin

1Jn 1:13; 2Pet 1:4

Because

God's seed remains in Him.
 He cannot sin because he has been born of God.
 The child partakes of the nature of his parent.
 The thought is not, a sinless parent begets a child who
 only sins a little.
 No sin is the product of the believer's regenerate nature.
 God's seed, the child of God, does not sin.
 The new man is an absolutely perfect new creation.
 Sin never springs from the new man; it always finds its
 source in the satanic realm.
 It never springs from what a christian is, but rather, from
 who a christian was before he became a christian.

Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:3-17

- Vs 10a The two natures are manifested
 An unsaved person can display his true nature through sin;
 A child of God cannot.
 When a christian sins, he conceals who he really is.
- Vs 10b-23 Love of...is the other leg on which John's teaching stands.
- Vs 10 GODLY LOVE (opposite of lust 2:15-17)
 is produced in a human - by God
 A spiritually dead person is incapable of loving, other than lust.
 Eph 2:1-3
- The source of the action of love in a person is definable:
 a. God
 b. flesh and the devil
- A person who does not love his brother - does not find the "source"
 of that action in God.
 What he is doing - is not of God!
 The action can never be traced to God; it is always traced
 to the devil. 3:8; 3 Jn 11
- Love is the appropriate expression of the regenerate life.

Vs 11-12 John is speaking to believers "the message which you have heard from the beginning".

What is love? 1 Corinthians 13

What love is not:

NOT the action Cain exhibited toward his brother, Abel
Cain murdered his brother - and in this action, he
was of the evil one.

The reason for this murder was Cain's jealous resentment
of his brother's superior righteousness.

Cain's hatred toward his brother may well have been
prompted by a feeling of guilt about his own life.

Application for us today: These kinds of reactions are
Satanic!

Vs 13 Such reactions of hatred are common.

NOTE: John is speaking to believers (brethren).

The world's hatred toward believers is the norm!

Believers' hatred toward other believers....go figure?

Vs 14 We know...we are living (abiding) in the "new life";
not abiding in death - when we are "expressing" love for the
brethren.

In short: Love for one's brothers is evidence that God's sphere
of life has been entered. Jn 13:35

Vs 15 There is no grey area: it is black and white!
Hatred of another believer is the spiritual equivalent of murder
Matt 5:21-22 just as
a lustful eye is the spiritual equivalent of adultery
Matt 5:28

hating = murder = abiding in death - not life

NOTE: John does not say that someone who hates his brother does
not possess eternal life; but rather - that he does not have it
abiding in him.

REVIEW 1 John! A Christian who fails to love his brother is
living in the same sphere that the world lives in. He can
make no real claim to be experiencing fellowship with God.
Rom 8:5-17

- Vs 16-18 What this "non-world" love is....
- Vs 16 A murderer takes life - an abiding believer gives life!
 Jesus Christ demonstrated this truth.
 His action is intended to be a model for our behavior.
- Vs 17-18 Material possessions sustain life.
 We are to give (expecting no return) that others might live.
 (For many, it is easier to share God's words of life than it is to
 sustain other people's lives.)
 The true test of love is not one's verbal profession of it but is a
 willingness to become involved with actions.
- Vs 19 We shall know by this:
1. has the world's goods - opens his heart - for him
 2. loves in deed and truth
 3. meets the needs of others by practical acts of love
 - Know and Know and Know that we are participating
 (incorporating) experientially in the truth; are of God
 vs 10; belong to God vs 12
- Shall assure our heart before Him - vs 20, even at a time
 when our heart condemns us Jn 21:17
- NOTE: Life is never "we are all good" or "all bad".
- A spiritually sensitive believer is aware of
 failings even when successes are our focus.
- Encouragement can be experienced even at a time
 when our heart is troubled for who we have been
 and what we have done.
- Vs 21 Beloved - believers - even when heart condemnation exists
 doing right; experiencing no condemnation produces
 confidence before God
- Vs 22 and
 if our heart does not condemn us, i.e. we keep his commandments
 and do the things that are pleasing in His sight (more than law
 observance), whatever we ask, we receive from Him

NOTE: There is more than one reality that affects our "confidence before God".

1 Jn 2:28 1 Jn 4:17; 5:14

Vs 23

The commandments (plural) in verse 22 are summed up in one Great Commandment which has two parts:

1. believe (in) the Name Jn 16:24
2. love one another

This is not new - He commanded it.
Jn 13:34-35; 15:12-17; 1Jn 2:6-11

Vs 24

The Holy Spirit's part in this process

Overview: We keep His commandments by:

1. abiding in Him
2. He in us
3. by the Spirit given to us

How we live matters. 1Jn 2:3; 3:23; 5:2-3

An abiding life matters. Jn 15:4-5,7

The Holy Spirit is central to the thought. 1Jn4:13

Short Summary: A believer can verify that God lives in him
by seeing the operation of God's Spirit in
his life.

Chapter 4 will expand the Holy Spirit's part in creating the
"Normal Christian Life".