

The world saw the human Jesus, but didn't recognize him as the Son of God
 -Jn 5:36-40; 7:25-31; 16:1-4
 -1Co 1:18; 2:14

John 3:16

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.**

The world does not recognize us as being children of God

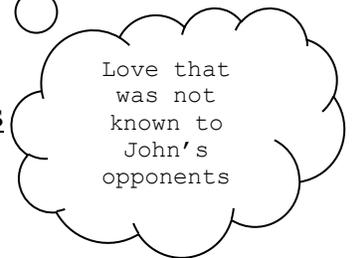
Children of God

Continuation of the thought in 2:29:
 "everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him"
 -Rom 8:12-17

We do not possess full knowledge of the life that is to come, but we believe in the promise!
 -Rom 5:1-2; 8:18

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.

Phil 3:20-21



Those who have confidence in the return of the Christ will aim to be like Him in purity and righteousness.
 -1Jn 2:6; 3:7, 16; 4:17

3 And everyone who **thus hopes** in him purifies himself as he is pure.

4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; *sin* is lawlessness.

1Jn 1:6,8; 2:3-6
 Romans 6:1-4, 12-14

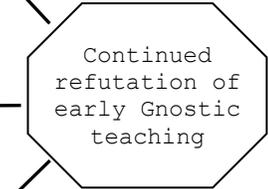
5 You know that he appeared to **take away sins**, and in him there is no sin.

1Jn 1:5; 2:1-2

These false teachers believed that what was done in the flesh didn't impact the spirit (i.e. it doesn't matter). Said another way, they didn't think their "sin" in the flesh resulted in lawlessness toward God.

6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

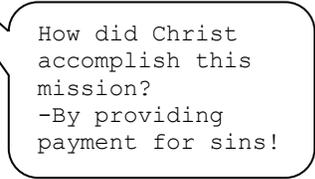
Jn 8:19; 14:7, 9; 1Jn 2:3-6; 3Jn 11



7 Little children, *let no one deceive you*. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

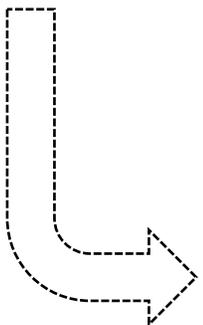
8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, **for the devil has been sinning from the beginning**. The reason the Son of God appeared was to **destroy the works of the devil**. <- Jn 8:44; 1Jn 2:1-2; Heb 10:12

How does John draw a distinction between those that are righteous and those that are lawless?



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. <- 1 Jn 2:26-29

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.



Virtual Study of I John – 1 John 3:1-10
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Questions for Discussion

Why is the fact that we “should be called children of God” such a good demonstration of the love of God? (vv. 1; Romans 8:12-17)

Why does the world “not know us?” What is meant by “know?”
(vv.1; John 5:36-40; 7:25-31; 16:1-4)

What does John mean by “what we will be” and “when he appears?” How will we “be like him” when “he appears?” (v. 2; Philippians 3:20-21)

What is the “hope” mentioned in verse 3? How does this “hope” cause us to live?
Why?

How do verses 4-10 deal with refuting early Gnostic teaching?

Why did the Son of God appear? Is this the same use of the word “appear” as verse 2?
(v. 5)

Do verses 6 & 9 teach that it is impossible for a Christian to sin or possible for a Christian to live without sin? (Romans 6:1-4,12-14)

How do we know if one is righteous? (v. 7)

How does Christ destroy the works of the Devil? (v. 8; Romans 7)

How do we know if one is “not from God?” (v. 10)

Study Guide Notes

Love of the Father

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Children of God

Romans 8:12–17 (ESV)

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Know Us / Know Him

John 5:36–40 (ESV)

³⁶ But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, ³⁸ and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

John 7:25–31 (ESV)

²⁵ Some of the people of Jerusalem therefore said, “Is not this the man whom they seek to kill?” ²⁶ And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ? ²⁷ But we know where this man comes from, and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from.” ²⁸ So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, “You know me, and you know where I come from. But I have not come of my own accord. He who sent me is true, and him you do not know. ²⁹ I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me.” ³⁰ So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. ³¹ Yet many of the people believed in him. They said, “When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?”

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John 16:1–4 (ESV)

¹ “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

1 Corinthians 1:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

What Will Be

Romans 5:1–2 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 8:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Philippians 3:20–21 (ESV)

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Being Like Christ

1 John 2:6 (ESV)

⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1 John 3:7 (ESV)

⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

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1 John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

1 John 4:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

Practice of Sinning

1 John 1:6 (ESV)

⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

1 John 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1 John 2:3–6 (ESV)

³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Romans 6:1–4 (ESV)

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:12–14 (ESV)

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Take Away Sin / There is No Sin

1 John 1:5 (ESV)

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

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1 John 2:1–2 (ESV)

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Seen or Know Him

John 8:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

John 14:7 (ESV)

⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

John 14:9 (ESV)

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

1 John 2:3–6 (ESV)

³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

3 John 11 (ESV)

¹¹ Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

Destroy Works of the Devil

John 8:44 (ESV)

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

1 John 2:1–2 (ESV)

¹ My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

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Hebrews 10:12 (ESV)

¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

Abides in Him

1 John 2:26–29 (ESV)

²⁶ I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. ²⁷ But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

²⁸ And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.