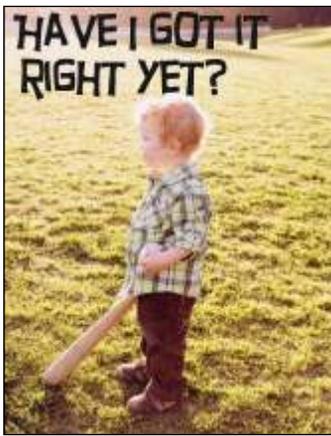


The Word And Righteousness



Abiding in Right

John continues his theme of the 'children of God' and how God's children are to live. The key verse in this passage is, "And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure." [1 John 3:3] Practicing 'righteousness' is the key to purity and holiness.

A. Living **For** Him 1 John 2:28-29

- 1. Abide in Him:** *John 15:1-8* We are the branch, He is the vine. I grow WITH the tree—I do not become a tree. My confidence is based in the vine—not in the branch. I live FOR Him because He is in me and I am in Him.
- 2. Source of righteousness:** Jesus is the source—and His finished work on the cross is the basis of our righteousness.
- 3. Practice:** [Greek ποιέω ποιέō] "To make, do, expressing action either as completed or continued." The visible proof of being a Christian is right behavior.

B. Living **Like** Him 1 John 3:1-3

- 1. Living as His children:** John is saying, 'Unless you are part of God's family you can't really know me.' We are His children because of His love for us. *John 3:16*
- 2. Our future:** [*vs 3:2*] We don't fully know what we will be like in eternity—but we know we will be like Jesus—see Him face to face. As He is—so shall we be. *1 Cor 13:12; Eph 2:8-10*
- 3. Our hope:** [*vs 3:3*] Our hope is in Christ and this motivates us to 'practice purity.' We live by the example of Christ in obedience to His word.

C. Living **In** Him 1 John 3:4-10

- 1. Living in sin:** [*vs :4*] John gives a definition of sin as 'lawlessness.' This word means 'rebellion.' I KNOW that I am doing something wrong: The Word says to NOT gossip—I do it anyway; The Word says to NOT commit adultery—I do it anyway.
- 2. Living in purity:** From the ESV version! *1 John 3:5-10*
5 You know that He appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. **6** No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known him. **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. **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. **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.

See also: *1 John 2:9-11; 4:20; Matt 7:16*

Pastor Mike Bayer — The Village Church VillageAlive.com — "First John" [Message 8]

1 John 2:28-3:10 (NKJV)

:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

:29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

:4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

:5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

:6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

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

:9 Whoever 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.

:10 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.