

FIRST JOHN 3:1-10
'Now we are children of God'
11 & 14 April 2024

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Discourse structure

Part 1: Our Fellowship with God 1.1 – 2.17

Part 2: Our Adversaries 2.18 – 3.18

V. Antichristian teachers 2.18-29

VI. Lawless sinners 3.1-10

VII. Those who Hate Christians 3.11-18

Part 3: Our Christian Faith 3.19 – 5.5

Part 4: Our Confidence with God 5.6-21

God is righteous, 2:29

²⁹ You know that God is absolutely righteous. You also know that God has rebirthed all who habitually do righteous things. (GJC, 2024)

The Greek present tense usually implies on-going or frequently repeated action.

A. God's Children, 3.1-3

¹ Consider how much love the Father loves us: he calls us his "children." And that is what we are. 1b Why do other people not recognize what we are? Because they do not know Him.

Checklist to know God

- 0 I admit that I do not know God.
- 1 I accept that there might be a God.
- 2 I am willing to find out if there is a God.
- 3 Listen to others' testimonials about God.
- 4 Evaluate evidence for a God.
- 5 Pray to God to see if something happens.
- 6 Ask God to make himself known to you.
- 7 Let God invade your life and experience.
- 8 Remain loyal to God, whatever the cost.

² We are already God's children, and he loves us. But God has not yet shown what we will become. We know that, when Jesus returns and appears, God will make us like him. We also know that we shall see him just as he really is. ³ And everyone who has this hope set on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

B. Jesus and sinners 3:4-6

⁴ Everyone who habitually practices sinful behavior, is violating God's laws, because sinful behavior is the same as violating his laws.

FIRST JOHN 3:1-10

God's basic laws for everyone

1. Honor Yahweh God above all others.
2. Treat others as you want to be treated.
3. Give everybody a day off every week.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. Do not commit murder.
6. Do not commit immorality.
7. Do not steal.
8. Do not lie about others.
9. Do not desire others' stuff or spouse.

Jesus' Ten Commandments

1. Repent.
2. Believe the Good News.
3. Receive the Holy Spirit.
4. Follow my teaching.
5. Baptize new followers.
6. Pray to God by my authority.
7. Love God, others, believers and enemies.
8. Remember my death.
9. Give freely.
10. Go teach others how to obey my commandments

⁵ And we know that Jesus came the first time to remove people's sins, and that he does not allow sins.

⁶ Everyone who remains faithful to Jesus stops sinning habitually. Anyone who keeps on sinning habitually either never saw Jesus on earth, or has never come to know him experientially.

C. The Righteous and sinners, 3.7-10

⁷ Children, stop letting people deceive you. It is those who practice righteous behavior that are righteous before God, in the same way that Jesus himself is righteous before God. ⁸ Those who habitually practice sinful behavior belong to the devil, the same devil who has been sinning against God ever since the beginning. The Son of God came into the world to destroy what the devil does.

The devil

- Rebelled.
- Lies.
- Kills.
- Rules on earth.
- Hates humans.
- Tempts to sin.
- Torments guilty.
- God of the dead.

The Savior

- Obeyed.
- Tells truth.
- Makes alive.
- Reigns from heaven.
- Loves the poor.
- Strengthens to resists.
- Rejoices the repentant.
- Lord of the living.

⁹ All those whom God rebirths stop sinning habitually, because God's "seed" remains in them. And they cannot keep on sinning habitually, because God has rebirthed them. ¹⁰ How can we recognize who God's children are, and who the devil's children are? Here is how: all those who do not practice righteousness habitually do not belong to God, nor do those who do not continue to love their fellow Christians.

Christian love

- Love places value on others.
- Love chooses to prefer others.
- Love defers to others' wishes.
- Love supports others who are in need.

- Love serves others with spiritual gifts.
- Love forgives slights and offenses.
- Love sees potential in others.
- Love patiently waits for others to grow.
- Loves remains loyal over time.

Assignment

- Read 1 John 3:11-18 three times in different versions (www.biblehub.com).