

I. Introduction:

The identity of the believers as opposed to the antichrists is paramount in today's passage. It seems as though antichrists are either unconcerned with sin or claim to be without sin (1:8) even though they continue to sin. The author will argue that they continue to sin because they are from the devil whereas children of God will not continue to sin. So sin is a marker of identity. Sin is deeper than the action, but reflects a person's identity and values.

II. Study: 1 John 3:1-10

³ 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. 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. 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. ⁵ You know that he appeared in order 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.

III. Into The Bible:

1. What does it mean to "purify" yourself (3)? Why is it important?

2. Why, according to this passage, did Jesus come into the world?

3. Who is responsible for sin? Us or the devil?

4. If you met someone who says they believe in the gospel and says they are a Christian, but keeps sinning, what would you say to that person? Do you think that person is a true believer?

IV. Application:

The gospel is that Christ died for our sins. Not just to get rid of the consequence of sin, allowing us to be with God in heaven, but to actually deal with and get rid of real sin. That's the entire purpose of dying on the cross. The gospel has real implications and ramifications that should be reverberating throughout our lives. We cannot claim to be Christians and just live the same life as unbelievers. If we are, that means we do not really understand the gospel. The gospel is not about just getting into heaven. It's about changing and healing the hurt, brokenness, and sin that fills the earth.

5. In what ways has the gospel changed your life? In what ways do you live your life differently from unbelievers?

6. What is a sin that you deal with? How can we help you in your struggle with this sin?