

# The Children of God and the Children of the Devil

Sermon 8 in the 1 John Series

## 1 John 3:1-10

### I. A Blessed Parenthesis 3:1-3

- A. Christians are His Children v. 1
- B. The Hope of the Christian v. 2
- C. Our Present Response to this Hope v. 3

### II. Practicing Sin (commits Sin) 3:4

<sup>4</sup> Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup> You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup> No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup> Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's<sup>[a]</sup> seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. <sup>10</sup> 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. (ESV)

A. His Children are to reflect His character.

B. Lawlessness 3:4 – *anomia*

“to live as though there were no laws” -- obviously God’s law

“to completely to refuse to obey the laws” Lawless.

“to live as one who despises all laws” an Outlaw.

**Matthew 7:23** -- And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!

**Matthew 13:41** -- The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,

**Matthew 23:28** -- Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness

**Romans 4:7** -- “Blessed *are those* whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered;

**Romans 6:19** -- I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading to more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness for holiness.

**2 Corinthians 6:14** -- Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

**Hebrews 1:9** -- You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”

**Hebrews 10:16-17** -- <sup>16</sup>“This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” *then He adds*, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

### **III. The Contrast between the Children of God and the Children of the Devil**

The behavior and motivational differences.

v. 3 – purifies himself

v. 4 – practices sin

v. 6 – abides in him

v. 6 – has not seen or known him

v. 7 – practices righteousness is righteous

v. 8 – practices sinning is of the devil

v. 9 – born of God does not practice sin

v. 10 children of the devil do not practice righteousness

### **IV. Jesus, the One who Takes away Our Sin 3:5**

### **V. Abiding or Sinning 3:6**

The idea of “lawlessness” is a key to understanding what John is saying in this passage when he says Christians do not sin. They do not live lives of lawlessness.

John Gill says that lawlessness “designs a course of sinning, a willful obstinate, persistence in sin”

### **VI. Do Not be Deceived 3:7-10**

Deceivers existed then – and deceivers exist now. **2:26.**

**v. 8** – God’s seed abides in him.

This is being born of God – or born again.

All glory goes to God for the fact we are believers and that we continue to believe.

We abide in Christ, and He abides in us – 4:16

**v. 9** – restates what is said in v. 6 – with the truth of v. 8 – that we have been born of God.

**v. 10** – Children of God or children of the Devil.