



LESSON 3: 1 JOHN 3

LOOK at the Text

1) 5 W's & H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How)

- **Who** are the main characters in this passage? List everything we learn about the individuals or groups.
 - God the Father
 - Christians (labelled “we” and “us”)
 - Christ Jesus
 - The Devil
 - Cain

In this chapter, John continues to challenge the believers to evaluate themselves on the basis of the three tests described in Lesson 2 (moral test / doctrinal test / love test).

We begin to see more of these themes of testing and proof in 1 John 3.

- **What** is the proof...
 - That someone is a child of God?
 - That someone is a child of the devil?
 - That we have passed from death to life?
 - That someone belongs to the truth?
 - That God lives in us?
 - How does this list convict and challenge you?
 - What questions do you have about this list?
- **What** are the commands in this text?
- **What** words are repeated throughout these verses? When anyone repeats words or phrases they generally want you to pay attention to these ideas!
- **When** are we children of God?
- **When** will we be like Jesus?
 - How do these two truths encourage you today?
- **When** did the devil start sinning?
- **Why** does the world hate the children of God?
 - And a related question: **Why** did Cain murder his brother?
- **Why** did Jesus appear?
 - How does this truth encourage you in the midst of reading John’s very challenging words in this chapter?
- **Why** will those who are born of God not continue to sin (or “make a practice of sinning?” [ESV]).
- **How** do we know what love is?
- **How** should we demonstrate love according to this text?



Pulling this all together, then...

- **What** are the main ideas recorded in this chapter? How would you summarize each section?
 - 1 John 3:1-10
 - 1 John 3:11-24

Do you feel discouraged or anxious after reading 1 John 3?

If so, read 1 John 1:9, 1 John 2:1-2 again.

- Confess your sin!
- Praise God that he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sin and purify us from all unrighteousness! It is his promise - don't believe a lie!
- Praise God that he has paid the price! Jesus is the "atoning sacrifice" for sin (1 John 2:2).

2) LEARN from God's Word

- **Whole Bible Connections** - Look up the following verses from other parts of scripture and note how they relate to 1 John 3. What do they affirm about what John is saying in this chapter?
 - **Read Genesis 3:1-7.**
 - What tactics did the serpent use to entice people to sin at the beginning?
 - Do you think his tactics have changed?
 - If you know that Satan will try to tempt you to sin by getting you to question what God said, what God meant by what he said, and whether God actually has your best in mind, how can you guard yourself against Satan's tactics?
 - **Read Genesis 4:1-16.**
 - What choice did God put before Cain before Cain killed Abel?
 - How does God portray sin in this text?
 - According to what you've read in 1 John so far, what is required for us to learn how to "rule over" sin?
 - **Read Deuteronomy 15:7-11 and James 2:14-17.**
 - What is our responsibility to other Christians, those who are our brothers (and sisters)?
 - **Read Romans 8:1-11.**
 - What is true about those in whom the Spirit of God dwells?

3) LIVE in light of the Text

- What is God saying to us in this passage about His purpose for our lives?
- How do the main ideas in this passage strengthen or challenge me to repent and change?
 - My Head - thoughts; beliefs; frameworks
 - My Heart - desires; emotions
 - My Hands - behaviours; deeds
- How should these main ideas influence and change my prayers?
 - Adoration - What can I praise and thank God for?
 - Confession - What do I need to repent of?
 - Supplication - What will I ask God for?