



1 2 3 JOHN

BIBLE STUDY

LESSON 3

LESSON 3: 1 JOHN 3

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!

And that is what we are!

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

² Dear friends,
now we are children of God,
and what we will be has not yet been made known.

But we know that when Christ appears,
we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves,
just as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law;
in fact, sin is lawlessness.

⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins.
And in him is no sin.

⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning.
No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

⁷ Dear children,
do not let anyone lead you astray.
The one who does what is right is righteous,
just as he is righteous.



1 2 3 JOHN

BIBLE STUDY

LESSON 3

⁸ The one who does what is sinful is of the devil,

because the devil has been sinning from the beginning.

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin,

because God's seed remains in them;

they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are:

Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child,

nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the beginning:

We should love one another.

¹² Do not be like Cain,

who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother.

And why did he murder him?

Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.

¹³ Do not be surprised,

my brothers and sisters,

if the world hates you.

¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life,

because we love each other.

Anyone who does not love remains in death.

¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer,

and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is:



1 2 3 JOHN

BIBLE STUDY

LESSON 3

Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.

And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

¹⁸ Dear children,

let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence:

²⁰ If our hearts condemn us,

we know that God is greater than our hearts,

and he knows everything.

²¹ Dear friends,

if our hearts do not condemn us,

we have confidence before God

²² and receive from him anything we ask,

because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his command:

to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,

and to love one another as he commanded us.

²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him,

and he in them.

And this is how we know that he lives in us:

We know it by the Spirit he gave us.



1 2 3 JOHN

BIBLE STUDY

LESSON 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



1 2 3 JOHN

BIBLE STUDY

LESSON 3

- 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?



1 2 3 JOHN

BIBLE STUDY

LESSON 3

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?



1 2 3 JOHN

BIBLE STUDY

LESSON 3

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



1 2 3 JOHN

BIBLE STUDY

LESSON 3

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?



1 2 3 JOHN

BIBLE STUDY

LESSON 3

- 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



1 2 3 JOHN

BIBLE STUDY

LESSON 3

- 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?