



# I John 3:1-10

## Scripture Memory

### I John 1:6

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:”

-----  
*The first category of false professors consists of those who ignored their sin as if it were not a reality to them. They claimed to have fellowship with God, to share common aspects of life with Him, that is, eternal life...However, that claim is meaningless if one continues to walk in darkness...To profess one thing and live in contradiction to it is to lie and not practice the truth.*

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: 1-3 John*, p. 28

## Sunday School Lesson Notes

### Key Thoughts

Regarding I John 3:1: *The author wants his readers to know that approval by the world is to be feared, not desired. To be hated by the world may be unpleasant, but ultimately it should reassure the members of the community of faith that they are loved by God, which is far more important than the world's hatred.*

Glenn W. Baker, *I John in The Expositor's Bible Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981), 12:330.

*A person who can enjoy deliberate sin and who does not feel convicted or experience God's chastening had better examine himself to see whether or not he is really born of God.*

Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary: New Testament, Volume II* (Colorado Springs, David C. Cook Publishers, 1989), p. 506.

## Questions to Consider

*As you answer the questions and prepare for Sunday school, carefully read I John 3:1-10.*

1. The key to profiting from I John 3:1-10 is understanding John's statements in I John 3:6 and 9. How do believers reconcile I John 1:8-9 with I John 3:6 and 9?
2. Towards the end of I John 3:1, John explains that the world fails to understand believers (specifically, children of God are intrinsically different from the world) because the world failed to know Christ. What is the unstated connection that John is making regarding true children of God and our Lord?
3. Describe the "hope" that John is referring to in I John 3:3 (Hint: read I John 3:2), and then give details as to the impact that "this hope" should have on believers' present living.
4. According to I John 3:4, what is the definition of sin?  
"Transgression" in I John 3:4b literally means "lawlessness" and is to be understood as defiance and rebellion against God's commands. With this short explanation, why is it incompatible for a believer to practice sin habitually? For help, spend some time reading Psalm 119.
5. According to I John 3:5a and 8b, what are two additional reasons why it is incompatible for a believer to practice sin habitually? Both answers revolve around Christ's coming to earth.
6. I John 3:9 gives us one last reason as to why it is incompatible for a believer to practice sin habitually. The "seed" that has been implanted in believers empowers them to "not commit sin." What is John referring to when he uses the term "seed," and Who is responsible for implanting this "seed?"

---

## Truth to Ponder

*There is more in the death of Christ on the cross than simply our salvation from judgment, as wonderful as that is. Through His death, Christ broke the power of the sin principle in our lives. The theme of Romans 6-8 is this identification with Christ in His death and resurrection. Christ not only died for me, but I died with Christ! Now I can yield myself to Him and sin will not have dominion over me.*

Warren Wiersbe, p. 505.

*Each of us must answer honestly before God:*

1. *Do I have the divine nature within me, or am I merely pretending to be a Christian?*
2. *Do I cultivate this divine nature by daily Bible reading and prayer?*
3. *Has any unconfessed sin defiled my inner man? Am I willing to confess and forsake it?*
4. *Do I allow my old nature to control my thoughts and desires, or does the divine nature rule me?*
5. *When temptation comes, do I "play with it," or do I flee from it? Do I immediately yield to the divine nature within me?*

Warren Wiersbe, p. 508.