

**A Practical Study of 1 JOHN**  
**“Fellowship With The Father”**  
**Study Number Seven**  
**1 John 3:4-10**  
**Fellowship is Apparent by Fruit**

**We are studying 1 John FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER and we have seen;**

**#1 - FELLOWSHIP IS RESTORED BY JESUS CHRIST**

**#2 - FELLOWSHIP IS BROKEN BY SIN**

**#3 - FELLOWSHIP IS NOURISHED BY OBEDIENCE**

**#4 - FELLOWSHIP IS ESCALATED BY GROWTH**

**#5 - FELLOWSHIP IS BEING EDUCATED BY HIS SPIRIT**

**#6 - FELLOWSHIP IS A REHEARSAL FOR THE FUTURE.**

**We come now to the seventh study,**

**“FELLOWSHIP IS APPARENT BY FRUIT”**

**We come now to one of the most controversial passages in all of the New Testament. There has probably been more written on 1 John 3:9 than almost any other verse.**

**There has been theological alienation.**

**There has been insecurity.**

**There has been lack of assurance.**

**There has been salvation on again off again.**

**There has been perfectionism that has been taught out of this passage.**

**We are simply going to guide ourselves through this in the power of the Spirit and trust that He will make the passage meaningful to us.**

**What we are going to see is that Jesus Christ came for 2 REASONS. In His first coming He came:**

- 1. to take away sin and**
- 2. to destroy the works of the devil.**

**Now when you understand that then you understand why you cannot have fellowship with the Lord when you are allowing those two things to go on in your life. He came to take away sin and He came to destroy the works of the devil as you are going to see in the passage.**

**Now to be playing around with sin is to be playing into the devil's court and that is what the passage is going to teach us.**

**Now in that great passage in Matthew 13 where Jesus tells the story of the **PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THE SEEDS**:**

- 1. He describes first of all a seed that falls by the road and the birds of the air come down and sweep it up.**
- 2. Then he describes a seed that falls in stony ground. And it is never able really to take root. And when the trials of life or the sun hits it, it withers because it has no root.**
- 3. And then the third seed falls among the thorns and as it comes up it is choked out by the thorns.**

**Now those three seeds describe exactly the problem every person has when they become a Christian:**

- 1. First of all SATAN realizes that he has lost a battle in you being born again into the family. So it is his desire to keep you from ever allowing the seed of the Word of God to take root in your life and for you to become prosperous and to begin to bear fruit in the lives of others. So what does he do in every Bible study? He reaches down with the birds and snatches away the seed before it can ever take root in your life and you can make a decision in view of what you have just finished studying. He is famous for diversion. He is**

**famous for moving from a direction whereby you will actually let the Word of God take root in your life and do something about it.**

- 2. The second enemy is the FLESH which is the OLD NATURE within. That is the rocky soil. That is the stubborn will. That is me and my desires and what I want out of life. And that rocky soil unless it is dealt with and cultivated is that flesh, that old nature, that resists what the Spirit of God wants to do. And so when the trials of life come to the person, the actual little plant begins to wither and it never comes to fruitfulness.**
  
- 3. And then the third one, the thorns, is the chocking of the world, the whole WORLD SYSTEM is literally choking out the life because we never have time to get serious with God and we allow these thorns of materialism and other things that come, that do not allow the seed to take root and to really become fruitful.**

**Now those are the 3 ENEMIES that you have to plan on doing battle with when you get serious with the Lord.**

**You have the WORLD, the FLESH and the DEVIL, all 3 of them.**

**Now how do you handle a problem like this when you**

**have the world, the flesh and the devil?**

**Well Stephen Covey tells us how the world handles it? When you have a problem-solving process there are 8 steps to it:**

- 1. Gather data**
- 2. Diagnose data**
- 3. Select and prioritize your objectives**
- 4. Create and analyze alternatives**
- 5. Select one of them (make a decision)**
- 6. Plan the action steps to carry out that decision**
- 7. Implement the plan**
- 8. Study the results against the objectives**

**Why can't we take a guy like this who is writing all this stuff to these guys who are trying to be successful in the corporate world and pull those same principles over into the Christian life and set these things down as an action plan for what we would like to do for the glory of God that we might be in a position whereby we might bear fruit for Him to bring honor and glory to His name.**

**Now Jesus said "by their fruit you shall know them." Now let's look at the passage in that kind of context with a deep desire that fruit be born out of our lives.**

**v. 4 Everyone who is doing sin also is doing lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.**

**Now that is a CONTRAST to the third verse which was**

the last verse that we had last time. Listen to verse 3 again from last week's study.

**“AND EVERYONE WHO IS HAVING THIS HOPE ON HIM IS PURIFYING HIMSELF, EVEN IS THAT ONE IS PURE.”**

An evidence of the Holy Spirit dwelling within you is a deep desire for an increasing purity in your life. That is just a part and parcel of the Christian life. But contrast to that:

**“EVERYONE WHO IS DOING SIN ALSO IS DOING LAWLESSNESS AND SIN IS LAWLESSNESS.”**

You see evidently in John's day there were those teachers who in a decadent society were softening sin. They were speaking of it in an excusable way. It is like “okay, that is alright, everything is fine.”

But you see the Christian world has literally gone along with a decadent society and they have tried to compromise what the Word of God says. And a person who is in fellowship with God has a high level of sin sensitivity. And it isn't going to make you popular. And it isn't going to give you a big audience. But friend I would rather “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth” than to be speaking to a society a message that is not true and to have to live with the guilt in that and that is all John is saying. Everyone who is doing sin is doing

lawlessness.

You say, well isn't sin and lawlessness the same thing? Well you could say it that way if you want to.

“LAWLESSNESS” really is a word that describes “wickedness.” It is a life characterized by wickedness.

Remember I gave you Isaiah 5:20, 21 a few weeks ago? I think that describes the society that John is writing to and ours.

### Isaiah 5:20, 21

Woe to those who call evil good  
and good evil,  
who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness,  
who put bitter for sweet  
and sweet for bitter.

Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes  
and clever in their own sight.

Boy Isaiah writes the page and it describes perfectly what is here in verse 4. You see it is the lawlessness in this sense that it is the assertion of my selfishness against paramount authority. It is just asserting the fact that I am a law unto myself and I have a right to do it.

Bill Barclay puts it this way:

**As A. E. Brooke puts it: “The test of progress is obedience.” Progress does not confer the privilege to sin; the further on a man is the purer and the more disciplined a character he will be.**

**Sin is the deliberate breaking of a law which a man well knows. Sin is putting one’s own desires in the place of the law of God; to sin is to obey oneself rather than to obey God.**

**And then Dr. Mitchell comes across and he says:**

**Sin is lawlessness. Sin is self-will and rebellion against the person and law of God.**

**Now the little word EVERYONE is the key to the passage. You are going to see “everyone” 5 TIMES in today’s study.**

**EVERYONE who is having this hope,**

**EVERYONE doing sin,**

**EVERYONE who is abiding,**

**EVERYONE who has been born of God,**

**EVERYONE not doing righteousness.**

**Judges 21:25 would go well here with verse 4.**

**In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.**

**So sin is lawlessness. It is:**

**missing the mark,**

**doing the wrong thing,**

**breaking God's law.**

**Here in verse 4 is the way he describes it.**

**Now what he is saying when he says sin is lawlessness also can be illustrated by the fact that every time you see sin, sin is a violation of nature. Sin is doing something inappropriate. Sin is going against the way God designed it. You can see this in the 5 major issues politically in our society today.**

- 1. HOMOSEXUAL**
- 2. ABORTION**
- 3. DIVORCE**
- 4. MATERIALISM**
- 5. What about your SELF-WILL?**

**These major issues in our culture today are counter-**

culture as far as God is concerned. They go against the laws of human nature. Therefore, sin is lawlessness.

Now can you take a little Stephen Charnock this morning?

What is man but a vile thing, that a God abounding with all riches should take care of so abject a thing, much more to bear so many affronts from such a drop of matter, such a nothing creature! That he that hath anger at his command, as well as pity, should endure such a detestable, deformed creature by sin to fly in his face. ‘What is man, that thou art mindful of him?’

You see we have gone cultural. We go along with it. We feel comfortable with our compromises and when people start talking about sin we turn them off.

**v. 5 And you know that that one was made visible in order that He might take away sin; and sin is not in Him.**

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says:

Why did Jesus come? Chapter 1, verse 2, that He could bring life. But He had to come to do something and there were two reasons for the incarnation that really help us understand why when we allow sin and we allow these things in our lives, we go against the two reasons why Jesus came into the world. That is the seriousness of it. We are actually going counter-Christ-culture when we excuse sin in our lives and allow it to

go on because His two purposes in coming as you are going to see in the rest of the passage today is number one right here in verse 5 “IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT TAKE AWAY SIN; AND SIN IS NOT IN HIM.”

Isn't that a great statement? That is John 1:29 as John that Baptist saw Jesus in the back of the audience he says:

### John 1:29

“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

He came to take away sin and in order to qualify as my sin bearer and your sin bearer it was absolutely essential that He be a person who is without sin that He might deal with our sin. He came to take it away.

Now did He accomplish that? Oh may I love that great word, that sixth word on the cross, every Easter season I love it when we get to that word “Tetelestai!; it is finished!”

Breaking the tape of the Olympic runner, having won the race, He has finished the task. It is finished. He came to take away sin and He accomplished His objectives.

Now as a believer I appropriate the results of His victory to my personal life as a Christian.

Verse 6, now we are getting into some good stuff, I hope

you are tracking with me.

**v. 6 Everyone who is abiding in Him is not continually sinning. Everyone who is continually sinning has not seen Him nor has he known Him.**

Now everyone who is continually abiding in Him is not continually sinning.

What does it mean to be abiding in Christ? If I asked you this morning are you abiding in Christ it would get pretty nebulous wouldn't it? Some of you would be a little queasy, you would say "well I think so, I think everything is okay, it is alright."

Now can I change the word "abiding" to "obeying?" I think you can almost equate the two. And you know in your heart whether or not you are obeying what you know and whether you are implementing in your personal lives the things that God has impressed upon you to be dealt with because obedience leads to abiding. I have that sweet peace of drawing upon all of His resources to gain victory over sin in my life when I am abiding in Him. And I am only abiding in Him in fellowship when I am obeying.

The OPPOSITE of that is to be a person who is continually sinning and the text tells us:

1. he "HAS NOT SEEN HIM" and
2. he has not "KNOWN HIM."

**You know what? That when you turn it around gives you 2 OF THE GLORIOUS EVIDENCES AND EXPERIENCES of every born again believer:**

- 1. Number one, when you catch a vision of the Lord through His Word.**

**We catch a vision of Christ in all of His glory and in His perfect holiness. That is the joy of a believer.**

- 2. And secondly, you come to know by personal experience this wonderful, wonderful Savior.**

**Isaiah had it. “Woe is me, I am undone, I am a man of unclean lips.” But he had just seen the Lord.**

**Job had it. He says, “My eyes see Thee, wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.”**

**Paul had it. “Oh wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from the body of this death?”**

**“EVERYONE WHO IS ABIDING IN HIM IS NOT CONTINUALLY SINNING. EVERYONE WHO IS CONTINUALLY SINNING HAS NOT SEEN HIM NOR HAS HE KNOWN HIM.”**

**Listen to what Gary Collins says in his book called the**

*Baby Boomer Blues. :*

The following words are worth reading slowly.

**Lord of the still small voice:**

**It is no wonder that so often I can't hear you  
for the roar of the crowd that is in my world,  
for the rush of the schedule,  
for the sounds of a never-silent age  
that is full up with music boxes blaring.**

**I'm weary of all the noise and the hustle,  
yet I can't stop;**

**No--that isn't right; rather, I won't stop  
to discover the renewal of being  
quiet in your presence.**

**Yet how can I imagine**

**that if in your incarnation you had to get away  
to be with your Father in peace,  
that I shouldn't need to get apart with you  
before I come apart without you. . . .**

**Lord of all. . . .**

**Protect the time you allot to me  
that no intrusion would come to assassinate  
the precious moments of stillness with you. . . .**

**Provide that retreat I so desperately need  
in days of stillness,  
in hours of quiet,  
in minutes of rest and peace,  
even in seconds when your presence is so real  
that it transforms my soul.**

**So meet me; by your grace.**

**Amen**

Why do we have baby boomer blues? Because we no longer have marriages that stand, we no longer have the family values and we no longer have a country that supports these other two premises which we in an earlier generation enjoyed wonderfully.

**v. 7 Little children, let no one keep on leading you astray; the one who is doing righteousness is righteous, even as that one is righteous.**

You can see the evidence of the life by what is coming out of the life.

Barbara Johnson says:

**WHAT'S DOWN IN THE WELL  
COMES UP IN THE BUCKET.**

That is simple. We say:

the proof is in the pudding;

the cream always comes to the top.

Because I am a Christian and I am walking with Jesus Christ there are going to be things that come out of my life and they are going to be the evidences of righteousness.

Yes, we were all as an unclean thing and all our

righteousnesses were as filthy rags, Isaiah 64:6, then Christ came in and He filled us with His righteousness.

Having declared us perfectly righteous before the Father because of the work He had done on Calvary then by the power of the Spirit He provides the victory over those things which provide sin in our lives. And it is those very things that destroy and break fellowship as we have learned earlier.

You know I think probably one of the most heart rending stories in Dave Dravecky's *Come Back* is the story of a young man who wrote a letter to Dave and told him Dave I have been told of the Lord to tell you that your problem is because you have sin in your life.

D.L. Moody said it so well, I don't have time to point out the sins of others. I've got to deal with my own.

**v. 8** The one who is doing sin is of the devil; because the devil is sinning from the beginning. For this purpose [*here comes the second purpose now*] the Son of God was made visible, [*what is that purpose?*] in order that He might destroy the works of the devil.

The one who is doing sin, he hooks him up with his father and his father is the devil.

John 8:44

**You are of your father, the devil.**

**He is one who has been sinning from the beginning.**

**Isaiah 14:13, 14**

**Satan is described as:**

**“I will ascend to heaven;  
I will raise my throne  
above the stars of God;  
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,  
on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.”**

**Have you noticed something? John has contrasted the children of God and children of the devil here in the passage.**

**The children of God manifest the reality of their relationship to Christ by bearing the fruit of righteousness.**

**The children of the devil manifest it by doing sin.**

**It is easy to see the picture and the argument. You are choosing to be on one side or the other when you choose to go against nature and you choose to live this way. You are playing Satan’s ballgame. Sin is of the devil. Sin runs contrary to the reason Christ came. He came to take away sin and to destroy the works of the devil. Christ is not the author of sin. He came to free**

**us from the bondage of sin and to do this he had to destroy the works of the devil.**

**You know when are we going to realize that we are in a spiritual battle and that we in our spiritual battle have got to be those prepared to be involved in breaking down the ramparts and the fortresses of Satan himself.**

### **2 Corinthians 10:4, 5**

**Paul described his ministry that way**

**The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**

**We are in a battle. And when you are in a battle there are going to be some missiles flying. You had better have your shield of faith ready and your sword of the Spirit, the Word of God in your hand. So you are prepared to do battle if you are going to see Jesus Christ win the victory because we personally without the power of the Spirit are totally impotent. But He came to destroy the works of the devil.**

**The Bible Knowledge Commentary has just one sentence but it is great.**

**Even the smallest sin runs counter to the work of**

**Christ. Believers are to overcome the evil one.**

**Even the smallest sin in my life runs counter to the incarnation of Christ who came to take it away and to destroy the works of the devil.**

**After the Civil War, Robert E. Lee visited the beautiful home of a wealthy Kentucky widow. After a charming lunch, she invited him to join her on the porch. She then pointed to a once majestic magnolia tree that had been badly burned and charred by Northern artillery fire. The woman began to cry as she described the former magnificence of the stately tree that had shaded the family house for generations. From her tears, she looked to General Lee for a word condemning the North or at least to sympathize with her loss. After pausing for several seconds, Lee said, “My dear madam, cut it down and forget it.”**

**You know may God cause us to cut the garbage out. Forget it and get on. To sit around playing over the “what ifs” and the “if onlys” we are playing right into the hand of the devil. You are paralyzed in greater victory, you are paralyzed in bearing fruit until you can cut it down and forget it and get on. Deal with it once and for all. Put it to bed and get on with the life before you in Jesus Christ. He came to destroy the works of the devil and the devil knows that even if he has you entangled in guilt he has rendered you ineffective from fruitfulness.**

**Now that sets the stage for the KEY VERSE, verse 9.**

**v. 9 Everyone [there is your word again] who has been born of God [he has come to know Christ, he has experienced the new birth] is not practicing sin, [and then he gives a reason] because His seed is remaining in him; and he is not able to keep on sinning because he has been born of God.**

First of all we need to realize that to know the Lord we manifest it by not continually sinning. Sin is a problem. It has to be dealt with or we would not have had 1 John 1. He tells us how to handle it, to confess it, to deal with it. We know we have an advocate 1 John 2:1, 2 who is there available to help us with these accidents.

**“EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN BORN OF GOD IS NOT PRACTICING SIN.”**

A person who is a believer cannot be comfortable living in continuous sin is basically what he is saying.

**“BECAUSE HIS SEED IS REMAINING IN HIM;”**

Now what is that? You can find as many interpretations of his seed remaining in him.

It is His seed, Christ's seed.

I take it that it could be the WRITTEN WORD. It could be the LIVING WORD CHRIST.

By, in fact the majority would say, is that when you are

born again of the Spirit, the seed of His life is placed within you, it is called your new nature, your new ability to respond. Now that being true, that new nature is sinless. Okay, you say but what happens to a believer when he sins. The old nature took over and Satan won a victory and the believer had an accident and sin came into the picture. So I go back to 1 John, chapter 1 and I deal with this accident in the way that is going to bring glory and honor to God in repentance and brokenness I forsake that sin, I put myself under the accountability of my brothers and sisters and I go on from there in victory for the glory of God rather than to allow that thing to be a devastating failure that destroys everything in my life. I am walking in the way of victory.

**Now “FELLOWSHIP IS APPARENT BY FRUIT”**

When that seed of the new nature is able to be manifesting itself in my life and it is growing up among the rocks and the thorns and it begins to mature, it begins to bear fruit. Then I am excited about the fulfillment of my life and I am in fellowship with the Lord because I am handling it properly.

**“EVERYONE WHO HAS BEEN BORN OF GOD [is not doing sin or he] IS NOT PRACTICING SIN.”**

Now does that agree with Paul’s writings?

In Romans 6:1, 2

**What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?**

**We have a new attitude towards sin. At least we should have.**

**Romans 6:11-14 says:**

**Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. [*And then this statement*] For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.**

**There is victory.**

**Each of us as believers has to go through the process of experiencing victory over sin in our lives. And the only way that you can do that is in the power of the Spirit throw yourself open to someone else and be vulnerable and accountable. And when you live in isolation you can make all kinds of excuses and you can rationalize your behavior and you can rationalize yourself right out of fellowship and into a position where the Lord is not going to bless and the Lord is not going to use you.**

**Now we are going to hit sin about two more times but let me remind you of just one KEY VERSE in**

**1 John 5:18**

**We are knowing that everyone who has been born of God is not continually sinning. But He who was born of God is keeping him, and the evil one is not laying hold of him.**

**There is victory over sin and there is victory over Satan.**

**Now the Lord recognizes it. Listen to these verses.**

**Luke 22:31, 32**

**Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.**

**How to deal with sin in the lives of believers is so crucial that Satan will mystify it and try to destroy it in a controversial verse like this. That is all we are saying.**

**That seed of the new nature is wanting to bear fruit and to spring up and the thorns of the world, the stones of the flesh and the birds of the air snatch it away before it can take root and Satan has done his number.**

**What do you do in a situation like that? You have one of two choices:**

- 1. Like so many, we can deny the sin and be unwilling to accept any blame, and we can cover it with what we think is a perfect performance.**
- 2. What does He want me to do? He wants me to be honest, transparent, to confess and to forsake and find mercy.**

### **Proverbs 28:13**

**He that covers his sins shall not prosper but who so confesses and forsakes it will have mercy.**

**That little seed Christ living in me, that new nature is waiting to manifest itself.**

### **Galatians 4:19**

**My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you—**

**Are you dealing with that old nature, the sin nature that is there and experiencing the victory and the power of the Spirit, so that you are living in accord with Christ's purpose whose purpose was to come to take away sin and to destroy the works of the devil? We serve a new Master who has walked us across the**

threshold, who has awakened us to new life, new love, a new relationship, and an entirely different future.

That is the picture of the believer in relationship and fellowship with the Lord. And then fellowship is apparent by the fruit that is born out of that ever deepening relationship to Christ.

**v.10 In this it is made visible: the children of God and the children of the devil. Everyone who is not practicing righteousness is not of God, and the one who is not loving his brother.**

Here in this final verse John makes the distinction between “**THE CHILDREN OF GOD**” and “**THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL.**”

**“EVERYONE WHO IS NOT PRACTICING RIGHTEOUSNESS IS NOT OF GOD.”**

In other words, the one who is making it a continual practice to be sinning is not of God.

**Galatians 5:21**

... of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

John identifies “**THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL**” in 2 WAYS:

**1. THE ONE “WHO IS NOT PRACTICING  
RIGHTEOUSNESS,”**

**2. “THE ONE WHO IS NOT LOVING HIS  
BROTHER.”**

**HATE and SIN are ways to tell “THE CHILDREN OF  
THE DEVIL” from “THE CHILDREN OF GOD.” The  
opposite of these could also be true, and that is love  
and obedience should characterize the children of God.**

**Dr. Mitchell says:**

**If you really love the Lord, sin will not characterize  
your life. If you love to sin and love to rebel against the  
things of God, then you should examine your heart to  
find out if you are truly trusting the Saviour. A new  
creation, born of God, is created in righteousness and  
true holiness.**

## **LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

**LESSON #1: Sin is a serious matter when it is manifested in the child of God.**

**LESSON #2: The sinless Savior came into the world to take away sin.**

**LESSON #3: To be continually sinning indicates that we have not seen Him nor known Him.**

**LESSON #4: We must be careful not to be led astray in taking a soft view of sin.**

**LESSON #5: Righteousness will be a normal manifestation in the life of a child of God.**

**LESSON #6: The one who is doing sin is of the devil.**

**LESSON #7: Jesus Christ came into the world to do 2 things:**

- 1. to take away sin**
- 2. to destroy the works of the devil.**

**LESSON #8: The greatest protection for the child of God against sin is the indwelling Christ and the living word of God.**

**LESSON #9: How we deal with sin in our lives is crucial for our relationship with the Father and our future**

**spiritual development.**

**LESSON #10: The children of the devil are characterized in 2 ways:**

- 1. They are not doing righteousness.**
- 2. They are not loving their fellowman.**

## **STUDY NUMBER SEVEN – 1 JOHN 3:4-10**

### **FELLOWSHIP IS APPARENT BY FRUIT**

#### **KEY VERSE 3:9**

**v. 4** Everyone who is doing sin also is doing lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

**v. 5** And you know that that one was made visible in order that He might take away sin; and sin is not in Him.

**v. 6** Everyone who is abiding in Him is not continually sinning. Everyone who is continually sinning has not seen Him nor has he known Him.

**v. 7** Little children, let no one keep on leading you astray; the one who is doing righteousness is righteous, even as that one is righteous.

**v. 8** The one who is doing sin is of the devil; because the devil is sinning from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was made visible, in order that He might destroy the works of the devil.

**v. 9** Everyone who has been born of God is not practicing sin, because His seed is remaining in him; and he is not able to keep on sinning because he has been born of God.

**v. 10** In this it is made visible: the children of God and the children of the devil. Everyone who is not practicing righteousness is not of God, and the one who is not loving his brother.

#### **NOTES**

**QUESTIONS:**

**1. Read 1 John 3:4-10 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.**

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**2. What do you think John means by the term “lawlessness” in verse 4?**

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**3. Why did Jesus come in human flesh, according to verse 5?**

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**4. What two things are said in verse 6 about a person “who is continually sinning?”**

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**5. What does “righteousness” reveal, according to verse 7?**

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**6. What further purpose for Christ coming in human flesh is revealed in verse 8?**

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**7. How would you explain the phrase “His seed is remaining in him” in verse 9?**

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**8. How are the “children of God” and the “children of the devil” identified in verse 10?**

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**9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?**

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**10. What lesson have you learned from this study?**

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## LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

**LESSON #1: Sin is a serious matter when it is manifested in the child of God.**

**LESSON #2: The sinless Savior came into the world to take away sin.**

**LESSON #3: To be continually sinning indicates that we have not seen Him nor known Him.**

**LESSON #4: We must be careful not to be led astray in taking a soft view of sin.**

**LESSON #5: Righteousness will be a normal manifestation in the life of a child of God.**

**LESSON #6: The one who is doing sin is of the devil.**

**LESSON #7: Jesus Christ came into the world to do two things: 1) to take away sin; and 2) to destroy the works of the devil.**

**LESSON #8: The greatest protection for the child of God against sin is the indwelling Christ and the living Word of God.**

**LESSON #9: How we deal with sin in our lives is crucial for our relationship with the Father and our future spiritual development.**

**LESSON #10: The children of the devil are characterized in two ways: 1) They are not doing righteousness; and 2) They are not loving their fellowman.**

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

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