

1 JOHN 3:1-10 (NASB)

¹ See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

⁴ Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. ⁷ Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; ⁸ the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. ¹⁰ By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

STUDY IT

- What are the words John uses to describe God's affection for his children? (v.1-2)
- What does John mean when he says "appear"? (in describing both *our* appearing – and Jesus'?) (v.2)
- What is the connection between *hope* in Christ and *purification* in Christ? (v.3)
- What is the connection between sin and lawlessness? (v.4)
- What is the purpose of Christ's appearing? (vs.5 & 8)
- Verse 9 describes how God sows a seed of himself in us. How might this explain the ongoing growth and fruitfulness of righteousness – even though sin is still present and real?

- How are we to distinguish between children of God and children of the devil? (Why must we be able to make these distinctions?) (v.10)

APPLY IT

- What do you think when you hear about how much the Father loves you?
- How does his love explain his attitude toward sin in our lives?
- How are you *practicing* the works of righteousness?
- What is God challenging you to understand or correct?
- How is God encouraging you to trust him and experience his holiness?

WORD LIST

Appear – Greek: phanero: "When Jesus appears" – This has been part of the issue for the people. Jesus's appearing is not phantasmic. It's is physical and real.

Lawlessness – Greek: anomia: being ignorant of or directly violating the law of God

Deceives – Greek: planeto – We get the word "planet" from this! It means to wander, stray from the path. A deceiver is trying to get you far from God's truth.

Practice righteousness – Living in right relationships with God and others. Keep in mind this a lifelong work of training. By merely, living into these practices (through Christ!) we are righteous.