

## **FIRST JOHN 3:4–23 SIN AND THE CHILD OF GOD; IMPERATIVE OF LOVE**

12/13/25 Sat. Morn. Prayer - <https://www.ptwente.com> (20200505 1 Joh 3:4-23) ptwente@gmail.com 714 425-9221

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- **To come into a closer relationship, a closer fellowship** with God the Father, God the Son our Lord Jesus Christ and God the Holy Spirit through the study and praying through His word.
- **To know God through a greater understanding** of His word.
- **To know His word and how to find out what we need from it**, when we need it and to understand what His will for us is in every situation! **To improve and activate our prayer life!**

**1 JOHN 3:4–23 - Sin and the Child of God - 1Jn 3:4-9; Imperative of Love - 1Jn 3:10-15; Outworking of Love - 1Jn 3:16-23**

*(1Jn 3:4-23) Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. [5] And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. [6] Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. [7] Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. [8] He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. [9] Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. [10] In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. - Love One Another – [11] For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, [12] not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. [13] Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. [14] We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. [15] Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. [16] By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. [17] But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? [18] My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. [19] And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. [20] For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. [21] Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. [22] And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. [23] And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.*

**1Jn 3:4 Whoever commits (practices) sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. (Rom 4:15) because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.**

- **Sin is basically that which is contrary** to the will and law of God.

**1Jn 3:5 And you know that He was manifested (1Jn 1:2) the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us. to take away our sins, (Joh 1:29b) "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! and in Him there is no sin. (2Co 5:21) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

- **Only the Lord Jesus can take away sin.** He came for that purpose.
- **Note two important things. In John's Gospel, we see that Christ died for the sin** of the world. Here we are shown also that Christ takes away the practice of sin in the life of the believer.

- **He died a redemptive death to pay the penalty** of our sin, but He also died that He might deliver us from the power of sin right here and now.
- **We sin because we ignore** the finished work of Christ.
- **He was without sin; He was without spot or blemish;** therefore, He is able to remove the guilt of sin and to provide the power to deliver us from the habit of sinning, giving us a new nature that we might live for Him today!

**1Jn 3:6 Whoever abides in Him does not (practice) sin. Whoever (practices) sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.**

- "does not sin" means "does not practice sin." These are pretty powerful words, which should cause us to examine our own lives. God provides the power to deliver us from the habit of sinning. A believer cannot continue in a lifestyle of sin.

**1Jn 3:7 Little children (believers), let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.**

- **let no one deceive you by persuading you** that a man may live in sinful practices, and yet be a true child of God.
- **This reveals the child of God. To abide in Him does not mean just positionally.** It is true believers have a position in Christ that cannot be disturbed, but there is also a practical consideration. If you abide in Him in fellowship and service, sin must be given up. Self-righteousness is not acceptable to God.

**1Jn 3:8 He who (practices) sins is of the devil, for the devil has (practiced) sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. (Heb 2:14) Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.**

- **He who is living in continual sin is of the devil;** for the devil has continually sinned from the beginning. Christ was sent to the Earth to destroy Satan's work in our lives (**Joh 16:7-8**) *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. [8] And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.*

**1Jn 3:9 Whoever has been born of God does not (practice) sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot (practice) sin, because he has been born of God.**

- "does not sin" means "does not practice sin." "**His seed**" refers to Christ's seed.
- **Are you really born again?** Do you have a new nature from God? Then you will not be able to live a life of habitual sin. God loves sinners. He loves to save sinners from a life of sin!

### **The Imperative of Love - 1Jn 3:10-15**

**1Jn 3:10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.**

- **We see here two things which manifest the child of God.** Now God knows our hearts and knows whether or not we have really been born again and are His children. But those around us don't know that. The only way for them to know is for the life of God to be manifested in us by our living.
- **True Christians are to be loved for God's and Christ's sake.** Those who do not love them, but despise, hate, and persecute them, have the Devil's nature still abiding in them. (**Mat 7:20**) *Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

**1Jn 3:11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, (Joh 13:34) By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."**

- **Our faith in Christ should produce love** in our hearts for each other, which is lacking all too often.

**1Jn 3:12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. (Gen 4:4) Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering.**

- **We are shown vividly here what love is not!** Not loving because of envy, which may be the best word to describe Cain's problem. He was envious in his heart of his brother, and it led to murder.
- **Envy and jealousy among believers in the church hurt** the cause of Christ today probably more than anything else.

**1Jn 3:13** *Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. (Joh 15:18) "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. (Joh 17:14) I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

- **As a child of God, we need** to recognize that the world will hate us.

**1Jn 3:14** *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love (practices not loving - hates) his brother abides in death.*

- **Now how do I know that I have passed from death to life?** Because I love the family of God and I love my brothers. Jesus said to His disciples, **(Joh 13:35)** *By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* How do you know that you have passed from death unto life? Because God has given you such a love for the body of Christ, those within the body of Christ.

**1Jn 3:15** *Whoever hates (practices) his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (1Co 6:9-11) Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, [10] nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. [11] And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

- **This passage does not teach that an actual murderer cannot be saved.** Christ paid the penalty for all sins—even taking the life of another. However, when a man is saved, he will no longer live in hatred.

### **The Outworking of Love - 1Jn 3:16–23**

**In verses 16–18 we see love responding to the needs of others.**

**1Jn 3:16** *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (Joh 10:11) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. (Joh 15:13) Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*

- **We cannot really know God through nature only.** Though nature does speak to us of God, the only way we can know God's love is through Jesus Christ. **(Rom 5:8)** *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**1Jn 3:17** *But whoever has this world's goods (adequate food, clothing and shelter), and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? (Jas 2:15-16) If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, [16] and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? **Christian love is not a sentiment.** It is that which expresses itself in action.*

**1Jn 3:18** *My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue (only), but in deed and in truth. (1Pe 1:22) Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.*

- **Self-sacrificing love is required** of us as believers. It may not be necessary to give our lives as martyrs for Christ, but certainly it is necessary to give of our substance. Christianity is a love relationship.

**In verses 19–22 we know we are a Christian by the assurance in our own hearts.**

**1Jn 3:19** *And by this (by the fact) we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure (persuade) our hearts before Him. (Joh 18:37) Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."*

- **When I am willing to show my love** in a self-sacrificing way, it gives that confidence and assurance that this is a genuine experience.

**1Jn 3:20** *For if our heart condemns (kataginosko, finds fault) us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. (Joh 21:17) He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.*

- **God is greater than your heart;** He will hear your prayers. He is going to deal with you. He will hear and answer according to His will. You can depend on Him. Displaying love as a pattern of life is the proof that believers stand uncondemned before God.

**1Jn 3:21** *Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. (1Jn 2:28) And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. (1Jn 5:14) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

- **If our heart does not condemn us,** it gives us a confidence, an assurance in prayer. Love banishes self-condemnation.

**1Jn 3:22** *And whatever we ask (day by day) we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (Joh 8:29) And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."*

- **Love in action gives assurance in prayer,** not as a reward, but our love in action furnishes evidence that we are His children and that in fellowship, He hears! When your life is pleasing to God, you can expect Him to hear and answer your prayers.

**In verse 23 we know we are a Christian by our acceptance of Jesus Christ and His commandments.**

**1Jn 3:23** *And this is His commandment (the bottom line): that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus (God is Salvation) Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. (Mat 22:39) And the second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'*

- **These are the commandments the child of God is required to keep, (Mat 5:44, 46)** *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. [46] For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?*
- **We are not to say we believe on Him** and then not love one another. His love is not just something we talk about or our language but it is our life! It is our actions! It will be expressed in genuine concern for the individual! No gossiping or hurting them in any way.
- **"Believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another."**

**Pray Today:** We thank the *LORD* for a continuing great worldwide harvest! For continuing protection and security of all believers! For a great revival in the Church! For many to come to Jesus! *President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; J.D & Usha Vance;* Senate majority leader *John Thune;* Speaker of the House *Mike Johnson;* We thank You for the many believers in our current leadership! We pray for more!

***O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL*** *Latin Hymn Frances Wade Presley/Boyle – (2:53)*  
*O come, all ye faithful Joyful and triumphant O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem*  
*Come and behold him Born the king of angels O come, let us adore him*  
*O come, let us adore him O come, let us adore him Christ, the Lord*