

THE CHRISTIAN AND SIN AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

I John 2:29-3:12

Introduction;

- A. Righteousness - The doing of that which is right.
Also right standing with God - imputed righteousness by God.

- B. Jesus was and is righteous because every thought and action is in harmony with God.

- C. All righteousness stems from Christ.
 - 1. I John 2:29
"If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him."
 - 2. Looking back to preceding verses we hear John speaking of Antichrists and Satan.

I . CHRISTIANS - CHILDREN OF GOD

I John 3:1

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

- A. Children because of God's great love.
 - 1. "Behold, what manner of love."
 - 2. Romans 5:8
"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
 - 3. "For he hath made him to be sin who knew no sin."
 - 4. Suppose one did you harm, perhaps killed your son, and then you forgave him and made him your son. What Love!

B. Children and world incompatible. They are like oil and water.

1. The world knoweth us not because it knew him not.

a. What did the world do with Jesus?

b. Even his own did not know him.

II . CHRISTIANS TO BE LIKE CHRIST AT HIS APPEARING .

I John 3:2

"Behold, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

A. Do not know what we shall be like.

B. Be like him.

1. Need to be like him now - "Let this mind be in you."

C. Because of this hope we are to purify ourselves.

1. I John 3:3

"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

2. You will notice it does not say we are pure but purified. This is sanctification or growing in grace.

III . CHRISTIAN, LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY AND ABSTAIN FROM SIN .

A. Sin as transgression of the law.

1. I John 3:4

"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law."

2. We do not sin without knowing it.
 - a. Adam knew it.
3. Sin is lawlessness.

- B. For Christian there should be no need for law.
1. For Ten Commandments.
 2. For commandment to love.
 3. Love of the Lord.
 4. What Jesus would do should settle it for us.

C. Jesus took away our sins.

1. I John 3:5

"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."

2. He is our example and in him was no sin.
 - a. John 8:46

"Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?"

D. To abide in Christ is to have done with sin.

1. I John 3:6

"Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not; whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither know him."

2. John is not teaching the doctrine of sinless perfection.

- a. I John 2:1

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;"

- b. I John 1:10

"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

3. This is not to cause us to cease to strive to be more like Christ for as Paul puts it, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

4. What John is saying is that no Christian continues in sin.
5. Righteousness begets righteous. Like father like son.

a. I John 3:7

"Little children, let no man deceive you; he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous."

6. Those who continue in sin are of Satan.

a. I John 3:8

"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil."

b. Jesus made a way of escape.

E. Christian does not continue in sin because his nature has been changed.

1. I John 3:9

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

2. Illustration = grafting on of good fruit on sour lemon stock. Growth coming out below graft needs pruning off. The tree has two natures.

3. The Christian has two natures and we may at times need to give ourselves a severe pruning.

IV. TEST OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

I John 3:10-12

"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil; whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."

- A. Righteous conduct.
- B. Love of brother.
 - 1. Cain hated Abel because he was evil and his brother righteous. Cain could not stand the prick of his conscience when he looked at Abel.
 - 2. The Pharisees hated Jesus because he drew attention to their sins. Was not this the reason they sought his death?
- C. It is impossible to be righteous without being born again.