

The Book Of 1 John
Chapter 3 Part 1, verse 1-10
“We Shall Be Like Him”

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There is a story of the great sculptor Michelangelo, that was brought a large slab of marble.

Michelangelo walked around it several times studying it, looking intently at the marble slab.

Finally he said: “*Isn’t it beautiful?*”

One of his assistants that stood near by said: “*Well, all I see is a great big piece of marble...*”

Michelangelo then said to him: “*Oh I forgot that you don’t see what I see. I see the marble for the way that it is going to be, I see a statue of David in that slab of Marble.*”

Michelangelo’s helper then said: “*No I can’t see anything yet...*”

Michelangelo then said to him: “*That is because what it is going to become is now in my mind. I am going to translate what my mind sees, into this piece of Marble and make it into something beautiful*”

You might look in the mirror and see someone who is far from the person that you want to be.

- ☞ **Perhaps you even wonder** sometimes if you really are saved.
- ☞ **All you can see** is a slab of marble, unfinished, rough and hard.
- ☞ **But the Father has seen you** in His mind, that someday very soon, you will be like Jesus, you will be like Him.
- ☞ **What the Father has seen** that you will become, He will translate the piece of marble that your life now is, into something more beautiful that you can imagine Possible

And this is the way that the 3rd chapter of the Book of 1 John begins...

[1 John 3](#)

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, **that we should be called children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, **now we are children of God;** and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him,** for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

You are right now, the sons and daughters of God. What you are going to become, you cannot yet see, and the world cannot see...

Like Michelangelo’s slab of granite that no one could see what it was going to be, you and I are not yet all that the Lord has intended for us...We are a work in progress...

The Father sees in His mind, what you cannot see, and what everyone else cannot see yet...He sees you the way you are in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become

Ephesians 2:10

For we are **His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:13

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off **have been brought near** by the blood of Christ.

Colossians 1:22

... to present you **holy, and blameless, and above reproach** in His sight

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2 Beloved, **now** we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

The wonderful news is that Right Now, Today, we already are His sons and Daughters. I cannot say that enough to you...

- ☞ **John is not saying here:** *"We are going to become the sons and daughters of God."*
- ☞ **John is not saying** that we should expect that *"Someday we will be the sons and daughters of God."*
- ☞ **John is saying** *"Today we are His sons and Daughters!"*

You became a son or daughter of God the moment you trusted Jesus to forgive your sins and decided to live for Him.

- ☞ **Our bragging** is not about something that we did that caused God to accept us.
- ☞ **Our boasting** is in what Jesus has done for us, that His Cross was sufficient, it was complete, and there is nothing that anyone can add to it.

We are the children of God Right Now, but for us, from our viewpoint, as we continue to live the remainder of our lives down here on the earth, while we are still in these bodies, we will see ourselves in 3 stages:

1. We have been saved.
2. We are being saved.
3. We will be saved.

1. We have been saved already:

John 5:24

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me **has everlasting life**, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

At the exact moment that you trusted Jesus to forgive all of your sins, you received Eternal Life, you have heaven and you cannot lose it.

- ☞ **Your Spirit** was made alive inside you, you were “Born Again”.
- ☞ **You became** a member of the family of God.
- ☞ **So this letter** from John is to you, the “*Children of God*”.
- ☞ **Not everyone** in the world is a “*Child of God*”, only those who have been “*Born Again*”, by receiving Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

So, the question is then, now that you know that you are the Son or Daughter of the Greatest King in the universe, how will you live?

1 John 3

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

A man went to his doctor to get the results of some tests that he were done.

The doctor said that he had some “bad news” and some “even worse news”, which did he want to hear first?

“*Well give me the bad news first*”.

“*The bad news is that you have only 24 hours to live...*”

The man jumped up from his chair and began to pace back and forth, “*24 hours to live, I can't possible get all the things done I need to do in 24 hours before I die, this in incredible, what am I going to do?*”

The doctor then said: “*The worse news is the I was supposed to tell you this yesterday*”.

The truth is that for us who believe in Jesus, it is already the last hour, there is no more time to waste on living for anything else except Jesus...

Romans 13:11 NLT

Another reason for living for Jesus is that **you know how late it is**; time is running out. Wake up, for the coming of our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

If you new for certain that Jesus was coming in the Rapture Next Friday afternoon at 1:00 Pm, what would you do differently that you might not have done if you thought that He was not going to come for awhile?

- ☞ **The truth is**, Jesus may come even before Friday, He may come before we finish this study this morning. So whatever you should have been doing, it is time to get busy doing it now.
- ☞ **If you have not** “Sold Out” to Jesus yet and are not yet living your life fully for Him, it is time to live for Jesus Like you never have before.

2. You are in the process of Being Saved.

Philippians 2:12-13

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;**

13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure

Now that you have made the decision to live your life for Jesus and have trusted in Him for your forgiveness and eternal life, how will you live?

- ☞ **The same old way you used to live**, except now you know and have accepted Jesus?
- ☞ **Or should it be A new and different way**, because you are not the same person anymore, you have had your heart changed, you no longer want the same things you wanted before.
- ☞ **This is what you have to “Work Out”** now that you know who Jesus is and what He has done for you: **How you are going to live the rest of your life.**

I am not talking about working out your salvation, that Jesus has already accomplished for you, Philippians 2 :12 is speaking of working out what you are going to do after you are saved.

- ☞ **If you are going to live for Jesus**, you are going to have to make some hard choices.
- ☞ **Some things in your life need to go...**Some things in your life need to start...

How you work out these things, is your responsibility.

Philippians 2:12

...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

The power to do them, is Gods responsibility.

Philippians 2: 13

13 for **it is God who works** in you both **to will** and **to do** for His good pleasure.

If you know that you now belong to God, that you are His Son or Daughter because you have trusted in Jesus, then it is time live for Him.

- ☞ **This process** of becoming more and more like Jesus, is a process, that will happen over the course of your lifetime.
- ☞ **This is the “Working out”, part**, your decision to live for Jesus and His decision to help you do it and make it into His presence.

3. We will be Saved.

The final act of your salvation will occur when Jesus calls you to “Come up Here”, and you are Raptured out of this world to meet Jesus in the air.

☞ **It is then** that your salvation, **from your viewpoint**, will be completed.

Remember though that from the Fathers viewpoint, you already are His, Your salvation is already a Done Deal.

1 John 3

2 Beloved, **now we are children of God**; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is

Now you might look at me and say: “*You know Rob, we are a little disappointed in you. We have seen some things and heard some things from you that really disappoints us about you*”.

“Rob, for someone who has known Jesus for nearly 30 years and has taught the Word of God to people for 22 years, you really should be more mature than you are...”

- ☞ **I would have to say**, you know you are absolutely right.
- ☞ **Joe Hittle used to say:** about himself “*I am a constant embarrassment to myself*”
- ☞ **I am nowhere near** where I want to be, **how about you?**
- ☞ **But I am not content** to just stay here where I am, I am going to keep trying to become like Jesus for the rest of my life.
- ☞ **How about you?**

So, let's not be so disappointed in each other...

1 John 3

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and **it has not yet been revealed what we shall be**, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is

It has not yet been revealed what we are going to become, but when Jesus comes for us, all of us will be “*Like Jesus*”.

- ☞ **Somehow**, Jesus sees in you and I, what He is going to make us into.
- ☞ **Aren't you thankful** that the Lord is not finished with you yet?
- ☞ **I think** that if this was as good as I could be, I would just give up.
- ☞ **I would be** totally discouraged.'
- ☞ **I am not yet** the Husband that I really want to be.
- ☞ **I am not yet** the true friend to you that I want to be.
- ☞ **I am not the father** I desire to be.
- ☞ **I am not the follower of Jesus** that I long for, **how about you?**

- ⊖ **But how I thank Him** that His work in my life **is not over yet**, He still has a lot of work to do in my life, **how about yours?**

And this is the difference between someone who is really saved and someone who is not saved...

This desire to want to be much more than we already are, to become more like Jesus and less like myself...

John is telling us here of the wonderful love the Father has for His children.

- ⊖ **We have been saved**, We are being saved, and we are going to be saved.
- ⊖ **It's going to be wonderful someday**. So you don't be discouraged with me, and I won't be discouraged with you

The way to recognize someone who truly belongs to Jesus is by their life, not by their lips

- ⊖ **There is a delicate balance** here between Grace, Legalism, and License.
- ⊖ **Grace says**, *"I am not worthy of the Love that Jesus gives to me. I am not worthy that He should give His life for me, but I receive it, and I am so thankful for it, that I will live the rest of my life for Jesus in a way that honors Him."*
- ⊖ **Legalism says**, *"I am acceptable to God only if I keep the laws of God and do those things that the Bible says someone who is a believer should be doing. If I am not doing them then it is evidence that I am not saved at all."*
- ⊖ **License says**, *"Because Jesus died for all of my sins, and I cannot be loved any more or any less when I sin, it really doesn't matter if I sin or not."*

The correct view is that

1. We recognize that all of the work of our being saved was done by Jesus.
2. I have fallen so deeply in love with Jesus that all that I want to do now is live for Him and please Him.
3. Whatever I am going to become, will be totally His work in me, and
4. That it is going to take all of my life, right up until the time that Jesus Raptures me out of here, before I will finally become like Him.

This brings us to the all important subject here in our study of 1 John chapter 3 of "If I continue to sin after I have accept Jesus, am I really saved?"

- ⊖ **You would be amazed** at how many times I am asked this question by believers: "If I am saved, then why do I keep sinning?"

1 John 3

- 4 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.

These are 3 verses that have troubled everyone who has given their life to Jesus:

- ☞ **Verse 6 says:** “Whoever abides in Jesus does not sin, whoever sins has neither seen Him or knows Him.”
- ☞ **OK, I got it,** if I sin **after** I give my life to Jesus, **I am not really saved...**

That concludes our Bible Study this morning...Good Luck...Right!

- ☞ **The thing that we are certain** that this verse **does not mean**, is that if you sin after you accept Jesus as your Savior, you are not saved.
- ☞ **Probably most of us sinned** on our way to church this morning, **so if that was true, what are we doing here!.**

The problem here is This is not really an easy to understand translation of this text.

- ☞ **To make sure we get this absolutely right**, let’s go back to the original translation that this text was written in 2,000 years ago.
- ☞ **The only translation that is guaranteed** to be without error is the original Greek translation for the New Testament, and Hebrew and Aramaic for the Old Testament.

In the original Greek Translation the text reads as follows: “Whoever Commits, (“Poieo”, **A prolonged form**) to live continuously in and make it a habit of...committing sin.”

- ☞ **Every person** who has called on the Name of Jesus and asked Him to forgive their sins and come and live in their heart, who is truly Born Again by the Holy Spirit, **will not make sinning a habit in their life.**
- ☞ **They will not be** living a lifestyle of sin.

Let’s say that today before you came to church, you lost your temper in the hustle and bustle of getting ready and trying to get here on time.

- ☞ **When you lost your temper**, did it bother you?
- ☞ **Did it make you feel** like you couldn’t come to church, like you were not worthy?
- ☞ **That means you are saved**, you have been born again.

If you lost your temper and it really doesn’t bother you, or you hardly notice it when you do, if it doesn’t hurt your conscience, then there is no way you are Born Again.

- ☞ **A person who is Born Again will still sin, not necessarily willingly**, but when they do, **they will not want to remain there**, because it will bother them.
- ☞ **They won’t have any peace** until they have confessed it to Jesus and had it cleansed.
- ☞ **They won’t be happy** abiding in the sin.
- ☞ **A person who is not Born Again**, it won’t really bother them to continue sinning, in fact they will enjoy it.

There is a Chinese proverb that says: *“You don’t drown by falling into water, you drown by staying there...”*

You know that you are truly Saved when you don’t stay there after you sin. It is not the falling into sin, it is the staying there that is fatal.

1 John 3

4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

Before going on any further, it is important to grasp an understanding of what we are talking about here...

The Bible defines Sin as *“A Transgression of God’s law.”*

- ☞ **The reason** that the Lord gave us the 10 commandments is so that we could know that we are sinners.

We didn’t become sinners because we sinned, we sinned because we already are sinners, that is our nature.

- ☞ **A motorcycle** is a motorcycle, because it is a motorcycle.
- ☞ **It is never going to be** a car or a truck.
- ☞ **When it acts** like a motorcycle, it is just doing what it is.

You and I sin because that is what our nature is.

- ☞ **When Jesus came into your** life and forgave all of your sins, He didn’t take out of you that sin nature.
- ☞ **That part of you and I is so twisted** that nothing can be done to change it, so the Lord basically ignores the sin nature.
- ☞ **Instead, He created inside of us,** a Brand New Nature, a Nature that is Born Again by His Holy Spirit.

So now, dwelling inside of us who believe and follow Jesus, is the OLD man and this NEW man.

- ☞ **The Old** man loves to do those things that please our flesh.
- ☞ **The New** man loves to do those things that please the Spirit.

A little girl was asked one Sunday at Children’s church *“What she thought sin was...”*

She said: *“I think sin is anything that you like to do...”*

Sometimes the things that kids say are closer to the truth than what adults say.

- ☞ The reality is that we sin because we like it, our flesh really digs it.
- ☞ That old nature that is still very real inside you, still wants to sin.

- ☞ That New nature that wants to live for Jesus, doesn't want to sin.

Romans 8:5

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who **live** according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

The key word here is "Live".

- ☞ **People that live a lifestyle** of just doing whatever their flesh wants, are always thinking about ways to give their flesh what it wants.
- ☞ **Those who are Born Again**, are always thinking about how they can please the Lord in what they say and what they do.

For the believer, this is the "Working out your own salvation" part...

- ☞ **Inside you** there is now a struggle between the Old Man, that wants his way.
- ☞ **And the New Man** who wants to live for Jesus.
- ☞ **Your will** is what determines which you are going to let control you.

And whichever side you feed the most, will be the strongest.

- ☞ **If you feed the Spirit side**, by Bible Study, Prayer and fellowship with other believers, it will become the strongest.
- ☞ **If you feed the flesh** by giving it whatever it still wants, it will dominate you and take over.

Illustration of the Sled dog team in Alaska...

- ☞ **The Power to overcome the flesh**, comes from the Holy Spirit, when you ask Him to help you overcome sin.
- ☞ **Now that you are saved**, you have a choice, you don't have to let sin control you.

I was talking to a brother one time and he was telling me about his struggle with a sin in his life and how much he wanted to stop. I told him, **then stop**...he said, "I can't..."

- ☞ **No**, He doesn't want to stop.
- ☞ **Is it a matter** of life or death to you?
- ☞ **When something** is life or death, we will choose life.
- ☞ **If it is something we still love**, we won't want to stop.
- ☞ **That was his problem**, he didn't want to stop.

We are born with this nature that doesn't want to please The Lord...we inherited it from Adam.

- ☞ **Before the 10 commandments** came in the Book of Deuteronomy, people were still sinning.
- ☞ **It was sin**, but it wasn't a "Transgression."

This is what the entire 5th chapter of Romans is all about:

Romans 5:12-14

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

1. **Sin got started because of Adam.** When I get to Heaven I think I am going to walk up to Adam and punch him right in the nose, no I am just kidding. But seriously, this whole sin problem that we all have is because the being that all of us are descended from and inherited all our attributes from, is Adam. **We inherited his sin nature..**
2. **Romans 5 makes the point** that Before the 10 commandments were given to us by God, people were still sinning, but it was not accounted to them as sin because they didn't have the law yet.
3. **But they still all died** because they had sinned.

So the point of all this, is that before God gave the law there was sin, but it wasn't "A Transgression"

1 John 3

4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness

- ☞ **When someone claims to know Jesus as their Savior,** but continues on with their same lifestyle of sin, Here John says that person is a liar, they don't really know Jesus, they are a "*Transgressor of the Law.*"
- ☞ **They know the right thing to do,** but they willingly choose not to do it.

The other side of this, is that the way that we can know that we really are saved, is that we no longer are living a continual lifestyle of sin, but instead we occasionally sin. As soon as that happens, we hate it and it really bothers us.

- ☞ **That is because** we now have a new nature within us.
- ☞ That is because we are "*Born Again*".

When a person continuously lives a lifestyle of sin, that is "**Lawlessness**", a person who is living without the law.

- ☞ **A person who has accepted Jesus** as their Savior will no longer want to live like this.

Are you totally confused....?

In 1988 the Fort Worth Star Newspaper published an article about a lady by the name of Lillie Baltrip.

She had been nominated for a “**Safe Driving Award**” because of her long and safe record of driving a school bus.

Unfortunately, on her way to the awards ceremony, Lillie was going a little too fast around a corner and flipped the bus over sending herself and 16 others to the hospital.

They would not give Lillie the award, because award committees do not operate on the principle of **Grace**.

- ☞ **Now, Lillie and her desire to keep a safe driving record**, is like the person who has been “*Born Again*” by accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
- ☞ **The fact that she made a mistake and broke the law**, going around the corner a little to fast, **is how it is for all believers in Jesus, we still sin and make mistakes.**

The way that the world treated Lillie, is exactly the same way the world treats us as believers, and it is the same way we treat each other or even our self when we sin.

- ☞ *“Well, you call yourself a Christian...is that what Christians do...You can’t possible be a Christian if you do things like that...”*

But when Lillie got out of the hospital, she didn’t look for the first corner she could find and go around it again as fast as she could...she tried harder to be more careful...

1 John 3

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who **practices righteousness is righteous**, just as He is righteous.

8 He who (Practices) 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.

See the point here? Practicing doing Right things, verses the old life of Practicing doing whatever we want to do...

- ☞ **John wants you and I to understand** how we can know for certain that we are saved.

Has it effected your life at all?

- ☞ **Has knowing Jesus** and accepting Him into your life changed your lifestyle?
- ☞ **If it has**, even if it is just very slow at first, even if you still see many failures...then you know that you are saved.
- ☞ **If knowing Jesus** has not changed you at all, then you are not saved.
- ☞ **If you can continue in a lifestyle of sin** and it doesn't compel you to do something about it, then you are not saved.

2 Corinthians 7:10

For godly sorrow **produces repentance** leading to salvation

When I really see Jesus hanging there on that Cross, and I understand that He was doing it all for me, because of my sin, if I really get it, and I ask Jesus to forgive me, then when I do sin, I will come to Him and fall at His feet and cry out for forgiveness.

- ☞ **And it won't just stop there...**I will take steps to change how I live...
- ☞ **Because I know what it cost Jesus to suffer for me**, I never again want to live like that again.
- ☞ **This Godly sorrow will produce** a change in my behavior.

When Michigan State played Wisconsin in the 1989 season, Michigan's Rumeal Robinson stepped up to the foul line for two shots late in the 4th quarter.

His team was down by just 1 point, so if he made the two shots he would allow his team to beat Michigan, the favored team.

He missed both shots, and gave Wisconsin the win.

Rumeal felt so bad about missing the 2 shots that cost his team the game, that for the rest of the season, after each practice, **he stayed in the gym and made 100 extra free throws.**

The next time that there were just 3 seconds left in overtime during the National Championship game, when Rumeal stepped to the line, he swished both shots and won Michigan the National championship.

Rumeal's Repentance was genuine. His sorrow over his failure motivated him to work so that he would never make the same mistake again.

This is a truth that is missing in Jesus church today. We have become so watered down in our doctrine of salvation and living for Jesus, we stopped teaching about the need to fight against your struggles with sin.