

“Why He Appeared”
(1Jn 3:4-10)



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Overview of our passage



Theme: The Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil

☞ 1Jn 3:4-10

Doctrine:

☞ There is clear distinction of who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are

Application:

☞ We are to show ourselves to be born of God by not practicing sin

Scripture Reading



1 John 3:4-10 (NASB)

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.

Exposit: 1Jn 3:4



4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

- ☞ “everyone” can be rendered “anyone”
- ☞ “who practices sin” (more on this)
- ☞ “also practices lawlessness” (more on this)
- ☞ “sin is lawlessness” (more on this)

“who practices sin”



- ❧ The “who” is anyone
- ❧ “practices” is the Greek ‘poieō’ to did, do, make, bring forth, or act
 - ❧ The tense of the verb is the action is completed or continual
- ❧ “sin” is the Greek word “hamartia” (from root harmatanō) which means to miss the mark
- ❧ The idea is the one who sinned (completed) and continues to sin (unrepentant) transgressed and continues in transgression against God’s commandments:

“also practices lawlessness”



- ❧ When “the Law” is used in Scripture, it is referring to the Torah.
- ❧ However, John doesn’t say “the Law” but rather “lawlessness” (more encompassing and includes OT/NT)
- ❧ “lawlessness” = lawless deeds
- ❧ This being the case, John is making a contrast that you are either
 - ❧ Practicing lawless deeds; OR
 - ❧ Practicing righteous deed
- ❧ In v. 4, John is addressing the former, stating those who practice lawless deeds refuse to subject themselves to God’s law or commands

“sin is lawlessness”



- ❧ This is why he summarizes this as saying “sin is lawlessness”
- ❧ Here is a biblical definition of what sin (missing the mark) means:
 - ❧ Sin = lawlessness
 - ❧ Sin = lawless deeds
 - ❧ Sin = anything contrary to God’s law or commands
 - ❧ Sin = the refusal to repent and submit to God’s law or commands
 - ❧ Sin = is what is in heart of man
 - ❧ Sin = your master
 - ❧ You can only serve one master (God or sin), and we by default choose sin

Exposit: 1Jn 3:5



5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

- ✧ Now we're getting to the main theme of this portion, why Jesus appeared
- ✧ "He appeared in order to take away sins" (more on this)
- ✧ "in Him is no sin" (more on this)

“He appeared in order to take away sins”



- ❧ In context, “He” is referring to Jesus
- ❧ “appeared” is referring to His incarnation
- ❧ Q: What was the purpose of Jesus’s incarnation?
- ❧ A: “in order to take away sins”
- ❧ This reveals a couple of things:
 - ❧ Reason #1: We have a sin issue
 - ❧ Reason #2: Sin needs to be taken away or removed

“He appeared in order to take away sins”



Reason#1: We have a sin issue

Genesis 6:5 (the generation at the time of Noah)

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that **every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

“every intent” means “every intent”

All of our thoughts is inclined to do evil continually

This is the reality of everyone (yes you too ☹)

“He appeared in order to take away sins”



☞ Reason #1: We have a sin issue (cont'd)

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is more deceitful than all else

And is desperately sick;

Who can understand it?

☞ The heart is also the mind and thoughts

☞ Our heart (our very being) is “more deceitful than all else”

☞ Even more deceitful than Satan? yes, or at least tied

☞ “desperately sick” is the Hebrew ‘anash’ which means:
woefully incurable

"He appeared in order to take away sins"



Reason #1 (Why Jesus appeared):

- ❧ Jesus came because we have a sin issue
- ❧ A sin issue that applies to every human being (less Jesus of course)
- ❧ A heart that is always inclined to do evil
- ❧ A heart that is most deceitful (rivals Satan)
- ❧ A heart that is desperately sick and incurable
- ❧ WARNING:
 - ❧ "I'm a good person"
 - ❧ "I have good intentions"
 - ❧ "God knows my heart"
 - ❧ Your wicked and deceitful heart fooled you!
- ❧ So this is one reason why Jesus came in the flesh

“He appeared in order to take away sins”



- ❧ Reason #2: Sin needs to be taken away or removed
 - ❧ Atonement must be made
- ❧ This is main reason why the sacrificial system and feast observances (including Day of Atonement) was put in place in the OT
- ❧ The writer of Hebrews discusses this in great length in chapters 9 and 10 of that letter, but here are is just a portion for reference:
Hebrews 9:22
And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
 - ❧ No shedding of blood → no atonement → no forgiveness of sins

"He appeared in order to take away sins"



✧ But the writer of Hebrews clarifies that it's a specific atonement that truly takes away sins:

Hebrews 10:1-7

1 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. 4 **For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.** 5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says,

"SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED,
BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME;

6 IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE.

7 "THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME
(IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME)
TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.'"

"He appeared in order to take away sins"



∞ Case in point:

∞ On Day of Atonement, the blood sacrifices of bulls and goat never took away sins

∞ God was never after such sacrifices

∞ David under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit speaks on this in Psalms 51:16-17:

For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it;

You are not pleased with burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

∞ God (the Father) was after a specific blood sacrifice

∞ A perfect, sinless, holy sacrifice

∞ Hence Jesus said in Heb 10:5:

"SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU (God the Father) HAVE NOT DESIRED,
BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME (God the Son);

6 IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND sacrifices FOR SIN YOU (God the Father) HAVE
TAKEN NO PLEASURE.

7 "THEN I (God the Son) SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME
(IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME)
TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD (My Father).'"

“He appeared in order to take away sins”



Reason #2 (Why Jesus Appeared):

- ✧ Jesus appeared because atonement must be made
- ✧ God the Father and His holiness requires that a perfect, holy, and sinless sacrifice be made to atone and take away sins
- ✧ The blood of bulls and goats did not and cannot atone for our sins
- ✧ Only the shedding of Christ's blood and sacrifice can our sins be fully atoned for
- ✧ This is the will of the Father
- ✧ Jesus appeared to fulfill the will of His Father
- ✧ Hence, a 2nd reason why Jesus appeared and came in the flesh!

Exposit: 1Jn 3:6



6 No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

- ☞ “No one” can be rendered “nobody”
- ☞ “No one who abides in Him sins” (more on this)
- ☞ “no one who sins” can be rendered “the one who sins”
- ☞ “no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him” (more on this)

“No one who abides in Him sins”



- ❧ In context, “sins” is not connected with “the Law”, but with “lawlessness” which means lawless deeds
- ❧ Someone who is characterized as lawlessness means this person refuses to repent and be subject to God’s law and commandments and it manifests itself in lawless deeds
- ❧ This is NOT to be confused with sins that we commit because we have bouts with sin and succumb to it!
 - ❧ Case in point, just some examples:
 - ❧ Abraham lied about Sarah being his sister
 - ❧ Isaac lied about Rebekah being his sister
 - ❧ David committed adultery and murder
 - ❧ Solomon became an idol worshipper
 - ❧ Peter sinned many times before and after Jesus died and rose
 - ❧ Paul even called out Peter’s hypocrisy after Peter received the Holy Spirit (Gal 2)

"No one who abides in Him sins"



☞ That said, if you're a believer and fall prey to sin, sin does have consequences! Some examples:

☞ **Sin robs you of your joy:**

(After Nathan the prophet rebuked David, David said)

Psalms 51:12

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation

And sustain me with a willing spirit.

☞ To restore something means it was taken away

☞ Which means the joy of his salvation was taken away

☞ **Sin robs you of your assurance:**

☞ David said "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation"

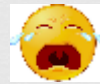
☞ Instead of being joyful and assured in your salvation, you will be miserable and lack assurance

☞ And last but not least...

"No one who abides in Him sins"



☞ You will get a spiritual spanking by your Heavenly Father!



Hebrews 12:4-11

4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; 5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD,

NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;

6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES,

AND HE *SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."

7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

☞ *Scourge is 'mastigoō' which means to flog, whip or torture

☞ Jesus was mastigoō when before He was crucified

“No one who abides in Him sins”



Back to the point:

- ❧ In v.6 context, “sins” is not connected with “the Law”, but with “lawlessness” which means lawless deeds
- ❧ Someone who is characterized as lawlessness means this person refuses to repent and be subject to God’s law and commandments and it manifests itself in lawless deeds
- ❧ This is NOT to be confused with sins that we commit because we have bouts with sin and succumb to it!
- ❧ Meaning the one who does not abide in Jesus sins!
 - ❧ Unbelievers, including false believers!

“No one who sins has seen Him or knows Him”



- ❧ “seen” is ‘horaō’ which means to see (literally with ones eyes) or it can also mean to perceive or be aware
- ❧ In context, horaō is to mean perceive or be aware
- ❧ “knows” is the familiar ‘ginōskō which speaks more of a relational union
- ❧ In context, a Christian cannot be someone who says they believe in Jesus, yet do not repent and be subjected to His commands
- ❧ Is this not what our Lord Jesus said Himself...

“No one who sins has seen Him or knows Him”



John 14:15 “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”

John 14:23-24

23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.

“No one who sins has seen Him or knows Him”



- ❧ This is where John is coming from behind this statement
- ❧ You can't say you love (or abide in) Jesus, but do not keep His commands
- ❧ You can't say you love (or abide in) Jesus, but are lawlessness
- ❧ You can't say you love (or abide in) Jesus, but take pleasure in wicked deeds
- ❧ If this is you, you are not aware of the true Jesus
- ❧ If this is you, you never had a union with the true Jesus

Catarroja AMP: 1Jn 3:6



6 No one who abides in Him sins (refuses to keep God's commandments); no one who sins (or the one who refuses to keep God's commandments) has (truly) seen (perceive or made aware of) Him or knows (entered a saving relationship or union with) Him.

Exposit: 1Jn 3:7



7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

- ❧ "make sure no one deceives you"
 - ❧ Reminder of overall context/theme of letter is to combat false teaching
 - ❧ Sin was being minimized or explained away
 - ❧ The deity of Christ was minimized or explained away
- ❧ "the one who practices righteousness is righteous" (more on this)

“the one who practices righteousness”



- ❧ Again “practices” is same Greek ‘poieō’ which means did, do, make, bring forth, or act
 - ❧ The tense of the verb is the action is completed or continual
- ❧ In context, “righteousness” is contrasted with:
 - ❧ lawlessness or lawless deeds
 - ❧ Christ Himself
- ❧ Thus, the righteousness spoken of in v7b is:
 - ❧ Adherence to God’s commands and allegiance to it
 - ❧ Just as Jesus adhered to His Father’s commands and demonstrated allegiance to it
- ❧ The idea is the one who adheres to God’s commands and demonstrates allegiance to it will show Himself righteous, “just as He is righteous” (7b)

SIDE NOTE: If you’re not being convicted of sin, the preacher or teacher is not teaching the full counsel of God’s Word

Exposit: 1Jn 3:8



8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning.

- ✧ John consistent with his nickname “sons of thunder” (along with his brother James) doesn’t hold back punches
- ✧ He’s maintaining his point that those who refuse to subject themselves to God’s law or commands or acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God is showing himself to be a son of the devil
- ✧ John is really echoing the exchange between Jesus and the Jews in Jn 8... let’s go there

Exposit: 1Jn 3:8



John 8:31-38 (after Jesus's Light of the World claim)

31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "**If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;** 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.** 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, **because My word has no place in you.** 38 I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father."

Exposit: 1Jn 3:8



John 8:39-44

39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus *said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, **do the deeds of Abraham.** 40 But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. 41 You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. 44 **You are of your father the devil,** and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because **there is no truth in him.** Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Exposit: 1Jn 3:8



John 8:45-51

45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 **He who is of God hears the words of God;** for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.”

48 The Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?” 49 Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. 50 But I do not seek My glory; there is One who seeks and judges. 51 Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he will never see death.”

Exposit: 1Jn 3:8



John 8:52-59

52 The Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets also; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word, he will never taste of death.’ 53 Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?” 54 Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God’; 55 and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” 57 So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” 58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.” 59 Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

Exposit: 1Jn 3:8



Now back to our verse:

8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning.

- ❧ "practices sin" is NOT bouts of defeat with sin
- ❧ But rather "practices sin" more specifically (from Jn 8) is:
 - ❧ Not continuing in God's Word
 - ❧ Not believing in God's Word, which makes you a slave of sin
 - ❧ Not believing that Jesus can set you free from being a slave of sin
 - ❧ Not having a place of God's truth in your heart
 - ❧ Not having faith in God's Word or promises
 - ❧ Not believing God the Father sent Jesus to save the world
 - ❧ Not loving Jesus
 - ❧ Not believing Jesus is the Son of God

Exposit: 1Jn 3:8



✧ TRUTH: Those who "practices sin" in this way is showing himself not to be a child of God, but a child of the devil

Exposit: 1Jn 3:9



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.

- ❧ In contrast and keeping in context, the opposite is true
- ❧ One who is “born of God” (Jn 3), won’t “practice sin” but rather “practice righteousness” in this way:
 - ❧ Will continue in God’s Word
 - ❧ Believe in God’s Word
 - ❧ Believe that Jesus did set you free from being a slave of sin
 - ❧ Have a place of God’s truth in your heart
 - ❧ Have faith in God’s Word or promises
 - ❧ Believe God the Father sent Jesus to save the world
 - ❧ Love Jesus
 - ❧ Believe that Jesus is the Son of God

Exposit: 1Jn 3:9



✧ TRUTH: Those who "practices righteousness" in this way is showing himself not to be a child of devil, but a child of God

Exposit: 1Jn 3:10



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.

- ✧ John repeats himself
- ✧ John says it should be “obvious” who is a child of God or not
- ✧ True believers will show himself to be born of God if he:
 - ✧ Believes in God’s Word
 - ✧ Continues in God’s Word
 - ✧ Remains in God’s Word
 - ✧ Believes in Jesus as Savior of all mankind
 - ✧ Loves Jesus and “his brother”
 - ✧ Who is “his brother”? (more on this)

“the one who does not love his brother”



☞ Let's allow Jesus to tell us who is “his brother” who in turn is our brother

Matthew 12:46-50 (after Jesus declared to the crowd the sign of Jonah)

46 While He (Jesus) was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him. 47 Someone said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.” 48 But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” 49 And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

“the one who does not love his brother”



- ❧ “whoever does the will of [God the Father]” are Jesus’s brothers
- ❧ By extension Jesus’s brothers are our brothers too
- ❧ Our brothers are those do does the will of God the Father
- ❧ We covered what the will of God is in a past lesson
- ❧ In a nutshell, will of God is to believe in Jesus and participate in the sanctification process
- ❧ Those who do not love believers are showing himself to be a child of the devil