

# The Epistles of John

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Week 33: 1 John 3:4-10



Dear children, don't let anybody lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous." Now, this is a very Jewish way of putting it. This is not Martin Luther. This is Jewish wisdom speech. So he is saying that if you want to be considered righteous, it's not about some alien righteousness. It's about actually being righteous, doing righteous deeds, leading a pure life.

Ben Witherington III



## 1 John 3:4-10

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### **1 John 2:1**

*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*



1 John 3:4-10

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*Handout*



“Why is sin so bad?”

Even though acts of sin may be pleasurable in themselves, they never have good consequences. If you persist, or make a continual habit of sinning, what you're doing is quenching the Spirit of God in your life.

Ben Witherington III



## 1 John 3:4-10

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The person who is conscious of the new beginning that God has made in his life will seek to let that divine ideal become more and more of a reality. He knows that he cannot claim sinlessness—for he has already read the first chapter of this Epistle—but at the same time he can claim God's power to enable him not to sin. This is the tension in which the Christian lives, and John has portrayed it realistically.



## 1 John 3:4-10

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It is not surprising that commentators have attempted to water down John's teaching to refer merely to the believer's freedom from habitual sin. But we must not misinterpret the text for pastoral reasons. Properly interpreted, the text remains a source of comfort. John is describing the ideal character of the Christian, ideal in the sense that this is the reality intended by God for him, even if he falls short of it while he still lives in this sinful world.



## 1 John 3:4-10

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*What is it actually that remains in those born of God that makes it impossible for them to continue in sin?*

The Holy Spirit is the most satisfactory option, in the light of the fact that the new birth is effected by God through the Spirit, and it is the Spirit who in Johannine theology remains with and in believers.



## 1 John 3:4-10

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In the light of all that has been said it is possible to distinguish who are the children of God and who are the children of the devil by what they do.



## Application for This Week

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3a - everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure

4a - everyone who acts sinfully is really doing sin

6a - everyone who abides in him does not commit sin

6b - everyone who commits sin has never seen him

7b - everyone who acts righteously is truly just

8a - everyone who acts sinfully belongs to the devil

9a - everyone who has been born of God does not act sinfully

10b - everyone who acts unrighteously does not belong to God



# Homework

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*My blog with past lessons is:*

[www.UnapologeticallyJohn.com](http://www.UnapologeticallyJohn.com)



# Thank you for coming!

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See you back next week