

1 John 3 - We shall be like Him

The context is Christ's return: There is a close link between **1 Jn 2:28-29** and **3:1**. We have confidence in appearing before Christ because we *abide* in him: **Jn 15:1-10**. See notes on **2:6**.

Overview: We saw the theme of **righteousness** in **1:5-2:6**, **love** in **2:7-11**, and **truth** in **2:18-28**, and the whole sequence culminates in **2:28** in the climax of **Christ's return**. In **2:29 - 3v1** John then begins from this same prospect of Christ's **second appearing** and shows us how we can be confident in relation to it. A new sequence then reinforces the same basic principles of **righteousness (2:29-3:10)**, **love (3:10-22)** and **truth (4:1-6)**. The 1st sequence sprang from the principle **God is light**. The 2nd is that of a **believer's new birth** "of God".

v1-2 Sons of God: Children by begettal. This process involves repentance, conversion and baptism: see notes on **1:8-10**. We become new creatures as a result of God's Word growing within us: **Jn 1:12-13; 6:63; Rom 1:16; Jms 1:18-21; 1 Pet 1:23-25**.

God's Word is not only the means of begettal and birth, but **also** growth: **1 Pet 2:1-2**. In **Christ's sower parable**, God's Word is symbolised by seed: **Lk 8:4-21**. We have all learnt the gospel. We must then **respond** by being the good soil. If we do, we receive the Word voluntarily, eagerly and affectionately. One's devotion to God's Word results in **growth**. God's providence in the **trials and experiences** of life also assist in this spiritual-mindedness. Angels work behind the scenes, shaping the life of a believer, so that **the interworking of experience and the Word** produces the desired character. This grows slowly, wonderfully, just like a tree growing with leaves, blossom and fruit. God's Children are "led by the Spirit of God", God's way of thinking: **Rom 8:14**. The natural mind is transformed into a Spirit mind: **Jn 3:1-10**. Spiritual growth is a slow process: **1 Cor 3:1-2**. **Key: Rom 8:14-21**. We are adopted into God's family, we become heirs with Christ.

v1 Love: Gk. *agape*, see **2:5**.

Father: Continual description in **John** and **1 Jn**. See **1:2**. This teaches of God's relationship with us as His children. God also wants us to become father - like in character. **World:** See **2:15-17**. Read Christ's words in **Jn 15:18-19; 16:3; 17:25**. The woman's seed is hated by the serpent's seed.

v2 NIV "what we will be has not yet been made known".

Appear: See **1:2** and **2:28**. **We shall be like him:** Morally and physically: **Jn 11:25; 1 Cor 15:51; Phil 3:21; Col 3:4**.

v2 see him as he is: Implies more than mere physical sight – It involves a discerning mind. The redeemed will gaze upon Christ, marveling in the realisation that they are one with him mentally and physically.

v3 God's Word purifies us: **Jn 17:19; 2 Cor 7:1; Jms 4:8; 1 Pet 1:22**.

4 Whosoever committeth **sin** transgresseth also the law: for **sin** is the transgression of the law.

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

6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever **sinneth** hath not seen him, **neither** known him.

7 **Little children**, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

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**.

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**.

10 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**.

11 For **this is the message** that ye heard from the beginning, **that we should love one another**.

12 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.

13 Marvel not, my **brethren**, if the world hate you.

14 We know that **we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren**. He that loveth not **his brother** abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is **a murderer**: and ye know that **no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him**.

16 Hereby perceive we the **love of God, because he laid**

v4 Dramatic change. I.e. "everyone who practises sin, practises lawlessness", i.e. sinning without any effort to change. The carnal mind is not subject to God's law: **Rom 8:6-7**. It is without restraint and lawless. We must not let sin overtake us. See notes on repentance in **1:8-9**.

v5 take away sins: cp. **Jn 1:29-31**. In him is no sin: cp. **Jn 8:46**.

v6 abideth: See notes on **2:6**. A personal relationship with Christ. **Sinneth not:** Gk. does not do "the sins" of **3:4**, i.e. lawlessness: **Jn 8:34**. **Known him:** See notes on **2:3**.

v7 little children: see notes on the **Background and Overview**. **doeth:** One of the main reasons for writing: **Mt 7:16-20; Tit 1:16; Jms 2:23-26**.

v8 committeth sin: Constant, habitual sin: **3:4**. **The devil:** **Jn 8:44**. See RHS box. Man's sinful desires. **The beginning:** creation: **Jn 1:1; 1 Jn 1:1; Mt 19:4**. **Destroy works of the devil:** Jesus defeated sin on our behalf, perfectly overcoming all temptation, thus achieving a great victory - and destroying the devil.

v9 Born of God: Means begotten: **1 Pet 1:23**. See **3:1-2**. **Key Verse: 1 Cor 4:15**. This Father / Son relationship must be lived in our lives in how we interact with others. **Seed:** Gk. that which is sown, i.e. **offspring**. Same word is in **Mt 13:14-28; Mk 4:31** - God's Word.

v10 Children of God: cp. **Lk 20:36; Rom 8:16,21; Gal 3:26; 1 Jn 5:2**. **Children of the devil:** **Jn 8:33-47**. Seed of the Serpent.

Colour code: Blue (God & Jesus); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Rathmines Bible School Teenagers - Spring 2014. For a PDF, email acdangerfield@webshield.net.au

v11 Love: Based on Jesus' words in **Jn 13:34-35; 15:12**. See notes on **2:5; 4:7-21**. In the last days "the love of many will wax cold": **Mt 24:12**. cp. **Mt 18:28-33; 24:49-50**. **v12 Cain:** Does not refer to Abel by name, but "**his brother**". Because this is the issue, loving the **brethren**. **Wicked one:** Same word tr. "evil" in this verse. The devil, a symbol of fleshly human desires: **Mt 13:19,38; Jn 8:44; 1 Jn 2:13-14**. See box below. **v13 If the world hate you:** **Jn 15:18-19; 16:2-3; 17:14**, cp. Christ: **1 Pet 2:20-24**.

v14-15 Death to life: **Jn 5:24**. **Love:** **Jn 13:35; 15:12,17**. Are we known for our love for others? **Abideth in death:** If we hate, we are as good as dead. See **2:11**. **Eternal life:** **Jn 4:14**. **Murderer:** **Lev 19:16-18; Mt 5:21-25**.

v16 Give our lives for others as Paul did: **Gal 2:20**. See **2:6**.

v17-19 Practical outworking of love: **Jms 2:15-17**.

v20 If our hearts condemn us, God can lift us up: **Jn 10:29-30**.

v21-22 Ask: **Jn 14:13; 15:7; 16:23**. **Keep:** to guard, watch: **Jn 15:10**. **Rev 1:3; 3:8,10**.

v23 Believe: **Jn 6:29; 14:1**. **Name:** His name is the Word of God: **Rev 19:13**. See **5:13**.

v24 Dwelleth: Same as **abide** in **1 Jn 3:6,14,24**. See **2:6**. **The Spirit:** God's Word, "the truth": **Jn 6:63; 1 Jn 5:6; Rev 2:7,11,17**, cp. false spirits in **4:1**.

down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But **whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?**

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of 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.

24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

Who or what is the real Bible deity?

1. The devil has the power of death: **Heb 2:14**

Jms 1:15 "SIN bringeth forth death"

1 Cor 15:56 "The sting of death is SIN"

Rom 5:21 "SIN hath reigned unto death"

Rom 6:23 "The wages of SIN is death"

2. The devil sins from the beginning: **1 Jn 3:8**

Rom 5:12 "By one MAN sin entered into the world"

3. The devil was a murderer from the beginning:

Jn 8:44; 1 Cor 15:21 "By MAN came death"

Rom 7:11 "For SIN... deceived me, and slew me"

4. Jesus was tempted of the devil: **Lk 4:2**

Heb 4:15 "in all points tempted like as we are"

Jms 1:14 "But every MAN is tempted, when he is drawn away of HIS OWN LUST and enticed..."

The Power of God's Word / "the gospel" to change us:

Prov 2:1-5; 3:1-6

Psa 119:105

Lk 8:15; Jn 3:3-8

Jn 6:63; 15:3; 17:17

Acts 20:32; Rom 1:16

1 Cor 4:15; 15:1-2

Eph 5:26; 6:17

1 Thess 2:13

1 Tim 4:6,16

2 Tim 1:9-10; 3:15-17

Heb 4:12; Jms 1:18-21