

March 7-8th, 2020 Sermon
“Whose Do You Think You Are?”

1 John 3:4-10

Pastor Paul Dawson



1 John 3:4-10 (ESV)

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

1. What was one of the distinguishing characteristics of your family growing up?

Read 1 John 3:4-10. (If there are multiple translations being used in your group, have different ones read aloud to the group.)

2. John is concerned in this passage that we be able to identify our “spiritual parentage” (v. 10 *children of God* vs. *children of the devil*). Why do you think this was/is important for the church?
3. When a person “practices sin” – when their life is *oriented toward* sin – John says they are “practicing lawlessness”. How does lawlessness show a person’s life is oriented *away from* God?
4. How does John’s description of Christ’s response to sin/lawlessness encourage you? (verses 5 and 8)
5. How does this 1 John 3 passage present the message of the Gospel?
6. 1 John 3:9 reminds us that our ability to resist sin comes, not from ourselves, but from something much deeper and more secure. What does John point us to? How does that bring you confidence and hope?
7. Pastor Paul quoted C.H. Spurgeon who said – “The test of a person’s real character must be what they do, not what they profess; not what they boast of, but what is really the manner of their life.” In light of John’s words here in 1 John 3, as well as Jesus’ words in Matthew 7:15-20, how does Spurgeon’s warning speak to our lives today?
8. How do these words from John encourage you in your walk with Christ?