

**Sermon Notes of  
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on July 28, 2019:**

**"Transformed by Love Series (Letters of John):  
Living as Children of God (1 John 3:1-10)  
(Part 6)"**

**[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman shows us what it means to live as children of God which includes bringing this message of love without fear, shame, guilt or doubt to others.]**

**Notes**

Introduction:

- We will continue to study the letters of the apostle John.
- As John shows that we are to live as children of God in today's passage, he also talks about "input."
- Now having a flourishing relationship with Jesus, we would call that an "output" or an "outcome."
- An "outcome" is the result of an activity.
  
- We don't just have a flourishing relationship with Jesus without doing something.
- So the "outcome" is the super-natural result of what happens.
- John is going show us in chapter 3 that there is certain type of input that affects the outcome.
  
- Now it's important to understand the distinction between or difference between "input" and "output" or "outcome."
- In church terminology, it's "being" versus "doing."
- "Being" is who we are in our relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit and knowing what are identity is.
- Now the "doing" comes out of the "being."
  
- So, the more we live out of the Father's love, the more the "doing" flows.
- This is a circular flow – out of our relationship (transforming and flourishing) with the Father, Son and Spirit flows our "doing."
  
- We need to remember that this is NOT what we are doing physically on our own, apart from our relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit.
- Now, in this flourishing relationship with Jesus, in this transformational process, in this living as children of God, we have the Holy Spirit flowing through us.
  
- We practice righteousness by staying in relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit which is by walking in daily prayer, study and meditation and fellowship (spiritual disciplines).
- This is the "doing" then the "obedience" and the transformation and the flourishing flows out of us.

### Recap of 1 John 2:18-29 from last week:

1. John tells us we are living in the last hour (the time between each coming of Jesus) and many antichrists have appeared.
2. Those who left the fellowship were not believers (i.e., not-yet-believers).
3. Believers have an anointing, and we know the truth.
4. A liar and antichrist denies the divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ and the Father and Son.
5. Believers are those who confess the Son and have the Father also.
6. Not-yet-believers are those who deny the Son and Father.
7. Believers are to abide in the relationship of the Father and the Son.
8. Believers possess eternal life, the promise made to us by God.
9. John wrote because of the deceivers of the time.
10. The anointing spirit enables us to abide in truth and Him.
11. Believers are to abide in Him enabling confidence, not shame, at His coming.
12. Believers are born of God, know He is righteous, and practice that righteousness.

### Reflections:

- Pastor Craig has been teaching us these past 2 ½ years that we are to live in a relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit with no fear, no shame, no guilt, and no doubt.
- For some that was kind of a revelation.
- Now, when we really understand the love of the Father and what He did through the Son and the work of the Holy Spirit in us, then we truly understand that there is no need for fear, shame, guilt or doubt in our lives.
- This understanding can truly be an eye opener to those who had not heard the Gospel before.
- Yesterday, at the Ambassador College Reunion, a lady asked pastor Craig the question, "Why is it that someone would want to attend your church?"
- Pastor Craig said that our church's focus and our purpose statement for our being is: "Loving God and loving others without fear, shame, guilt or doubt."
- The lady's response was, "Wait a minute! Say that again."
- After pastor Craig repeated our church's purpose, she said, "That's an amazing statement. I've not heard that in my past."
- Let's not forget that those outside of a relationship with Jesus, that our message can make sense to them.

In Preview of today's message (1 John 3:1-10):

*The Father has lavished such great Love,  
We will be like him when he appears from Above.  
This hope purifies us, just as he is,  
Abiding in him without sin is our primary Biz.*

*We are his children and practice his Way,  
A practice in righteousness is what John will Say.  
Jesus Christ appeared and destroyed the works of Devil,  
Abiding in truth, abiding in him is our highest Level.*

Additional reflections:

- Remember that our theme scripture last year was “Abiding in the Vine” (John 15:5).
- If we can live a life “abiding in the Vine” which is living in that relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit, everything changes – our view of who we are and our view of who others are and our view of what is truly good.

We gain our identity in the Father's love (3:1-3):

**1 John 3:1 (NASB), See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.**

- First and foremost – this has to become part of our DNA and that we never question it – we definitely ARE the children of God.
- There is no changing of this fact, whether someone believes it or not.
- So we need to believe it and accept it by knowing who we are.
- Now, even though not-yet-believers don't understand this nor believe it, it doesn't mean that God has rejected them or abandoned them.
- The Father, Son and Spirit have a relationship with them even though they are not reciprocating now.
- But at some point the not-yet-believers will respond – and if not God will hold on to them for eons of time.
- Now, because of our relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit as God's children and because the Holy Spirit now abides in us, John will go on to tell us that we are righteous and practice righteousness.
- The objective reality is that God the Father sees us through the eyes of His Son as His children, He sees us as righteous even though we don't practice it perfectly.
- When we fall and sin, we get back up and continue forward in our life with God.
- This is the righteous life style that John is talking about.

**2) Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.**

- Once again, statement of fact, we will like Jesus when He returns. When we believe this, it becomes a game changer in our lives – our lives become different and unique.

**3) And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

- Now, we might struggle with this verse because we know we're not perfect and do wrong things.
- John is not talking about acts of sins but sin, which is an outlook of not believing who we are.
- Even though we may not feel pure, the objective reality is that God sees us because Jesus, the only pure One, transfers that purity to us.
- And through that transfer, in God's eyes, we have the same purity and the same righteousness that Jesus, the Son, has.

**1 John 3:1 (Mirror), Consider the amazing love the Father lavished upon us; this is our defining moment: we began in the agape of God – the engineer of the universe is our Father!**

- It's because of God's agape love that we have God as our heavenly Father.

**1b) So it's no wonder that the performance-based systems of this world just cannot see this! Because they do not recognize their origin in God, they feel indifferent towards anyone who does!**

- This is the state of the not-yet-believer – they don't see or understand God and they have a different mindset than believers.
- But they are not unloved by God even though they haven't come to the reality that they, too, as the beloved children of God so they can participate in that relationship.

**2 Beloved, we know that we are children of God to begin with, which means that there can be no future surprises;**

- Years ago, Holiday Inn ran ads that talked about there were no surprises when you stay with them.
- The same is even more true with God – He will never pull the rug out from underneath us.

**2b) his manifest likeness is already mirrored in us! Our sameness cannot be comprised or contradicted; our gaze will confirm exactly who he is – and who we are.**

- Once again, the reality of the life we live is here and now and our future life won't bring any surprises – it will be more of the same and even better.

**3) And every individual in whom this expectation echoes also endeavors to realize their own flawless innocence mirrored in him whose image they bear.**

- Do we understand that in God's eyes that spiritually we are flawless and we are innocent?

We are to live out through the Son's life (3:4-8):

- a. Jesus takes away our sins (verses 4–6)
- b. Jesus destroys the devil's work (verses 7-8)

**1 John 3:4 (NASB), 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.**

- When we abide in that relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit, we have no sin.
- Yes, we don't live perfect lives and we do make mistakes – but we need to acknowledge that, then repent and move forward.
- We need to remember that our repentance doesn't change God's attitude toward us, but rather it changes our attitude to go back to God.

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

- We have the same righteous identity with God as Jesus did, because Jesus brought us into that divine relationship.

**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.**

- When the not-yet-believers don't know that they are the children of God and don't participate in a loving relationship with God, then John just identifies them of "being of the devil."
- Now it doesn't mean that it's intentional or that they will always be that way.
- God is working with all of humanity to become believers, but He doesn't force them – forced love is no love at all!
- God deals with humanity in such a way that they will make, on their own, the choice to unite with God.

**1 John 3:4 (Mirror), Distorted behavior is the result of a warped self-image! A lost sense of identity is the basis of all sin! 5) We have witnessed with our own eyes how, in the unveiling of the prophetic word, when he was lifted up upon the cross as the Lamb of God, he lifted up our sins and broke its dominion and rule over us!**

**6) To abide in him in uninterrupted seamless oneness, is to live free from sin.**

- It's so important to abide in the relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit because that allows us to live a transformed life, which enables us to be free from sin, even though we do sin from time to time.

**6b) Whoever continues in sin has obviously not perceived how free they are in him; they clearly do not really know him. 7) Little children, do not be led astray by any other opinion; his righteousness is the source of our righteousness. 8) Sin's source is a fallen mindset, from the beginning! For this purpose the son of God was revealed! His mission was to undo the works of the devil!**

- Certain churches put a lot of emphasis on the Original Sin and the Fall of Adam.
- Does it make any logical sense that Jesus, who came on the scene to undo the fall and the sin of Adam, wouldn't have more power than Adam had?
- Some teach that Original Sin puts Adam at a higher and more powerful point of reality than Jesus, the Son of God, which is not true.

We acknowledge the Spirit's indwelling (3:9-10):

**1 John 3:9 (NASB), 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.**

- This means that the Spirit is working in believers in a different way, because of our flourishing relationship with God, than He is working in the lives of not-yet-believers.
- When we become believers and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, we become born of God.
- We are in a believing relationship based on trust and faith, we don't practice sin.
- Others don't teach this, but rather teach guilt, but guilt doesn't really work in changing people's lives but for only a short period of time.

**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.**

**1 John 3:9 (Mirror), To discover one's authentic sonship in God, is to discover true freedom from sin.**

- When we discover the love of God for us, we discover true freedom.
- We are free from sin and its punishment even though we sin from time to time.

**9b) We are born of him and his seed remains in us; this is the only possible reference to sober up the mind from the intoxicating influence of deception.**

**10) There is a very visible and vast difference between living one's life from your God identity, or from a fallen mindset; the diabolos-fruit has nothing in common with righteousness; neither does it know anything about brotherly love.**

- The more we can absorb God's truth about us, it will change us completely.

In Summary (Let's say this together):

*The Father has lavished such great Love,  
We will be like him when he appears from Above.  
This hope purifies us, just as he is,  
Abiding in him without sin is our primary Biz.*

*We are his children and practice his Way,  
A practice in righteousness is what John will Say.  
Jesus Christ appeared and destroyed the works of Devil,  
Abiding in truth, abiding in him is our highest Level.*

Closing prayer