

1 John 3:7-9

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1 John 3:7

Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

Little children, let no one deceive you

John is warning believers again, not to be deceived. The word deceive means “to be led astray.” False teachers were spreading false spiritual claims by mingling the truth of God’s Word with false doctrines and so handling it with deceit. John emphasizes the need for obedience, the need for love, and the need for a proper view of Christ.

If a person lives contrary to the teachings of Jesus, they are not to be listened to or followed. Be on guard! Let no one deceive you spiritually with dangerous and phony spiritual claims!

Ephesians 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Galatians 6:7-8 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

James 1:22, 29 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

How can we be on guard from false doctrine?

Whoever practices righteousness is righteous

Righteousness is a way of living; imitating Jesus based on the divine, moral law given in the Bible. The one who strives to live a consistently honorable life in private as well as in public is righteous, just as He is righteous. Basically, it is doing what God says we should do and living how He wants us to live.

For us to be pleasing to God we must be righteous, why?

Romans 6:13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

How often are we to live a righteous life?

Psalm 106:3 Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!

As he is righteous

Psalm 145:17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.

Because God is righteous, we are to be righteous. Born again believers are to reflect the divine nature of the Son and display the power of His life in them. It is not by our own doing that makes believers righteous; believers are justified by the righteousness of God in Christ. To become righteous, one must believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. As a result, believers receive His righteousness which makes us righteous in God's eyes.

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Romans 10:9-10 Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

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 2:29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

What are some examples of righteous living in the life of a believer?

The key to living a righteous life is an obedient life, a right relationship with Christ by spending time in prayer and reading His Word. Living a righteous life involves repenting of our sins and striving to live according to God's will.

1 John 3:8

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.

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil

John continues to teach on the topic of those who continue in sin. All sin and rebellion are from the devil. The devil (accuser/slanderer) is the father of sin. Satan's children live under the power and dominion of sin. John contrasts the children of God with the children of Satan in terms of their actions. Those who are truly born again reflect the habit of righteousness, Satan's children continually practice sin.

Psalm 34:1-4 I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before their eyes. In their own eyes they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin. The words of their mouths are wicked and deceitful; they fail to act wisely.

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Ephesians 2:1-2 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins. In which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.

For the devil has been sinning from the beginning

Satan brought sin to humanity in the Garden of Eden, where he tempted Adam and Eve with the same enticement, "you shall be like God." Genesis 3 describes Adam and Eve's rebellion against God and against His command. The opposition between Christ and Satan was foretold in Genesis 3:15, "*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*" Through Adam, sin and death entered the world and has been passed down through all the generations of mankind.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What is the gift that we receive from God?

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil

Jesus came into our world, in the flesh to destroy the works of the devil. Jesus took away the foundation of Satan's plan of death, fear and slavery to sin. Thanks be to the Lord Jesus Christ who has destroyed the power of eternal death!

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil. and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

There will be a day when all of Satan's activity will cease in the universe and he and his followers will receive their just judgment.

Luke 10:18 And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Something to ponder: Am I thankful that I will not receive God's wrath?

What precautions can we take to not get caught up in the devil's schemes?

Be ready and on guard for the spiritual battle! We need to be prepared every day for battle!

Ephesians 6:11-12 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against a spiritual enemy. We are not to submit to our sin nature. We need to be active in daily Bible study and prayer if we are going to defeat the enemy. We cannot do this on our own strength, we need the Lord's help daily! We need the full armor of God to stand against the devil's schemes! That is the only way we can resist the devil, and when we resist him, he will flee from us!

Romans 6:2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Romans 12:9 Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Do we have a choice to choose good or evil?

Something to ponder: Let not us serve or indulge what the Son of God came to destroy. M.H. Commentary

1 John 3:9

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.

No one born of God

God's life is imparted to the believer at salvation. When one comes to Christ, they are given a new nature, and they are new creatures and are "born of God." God's children remain eternally related to God. This relationship cannot be reversed to those who are truly born again and permanently transformed into a new creation.

John 1:13 Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

Makes a practice of sinning

When we say yes to sin, we walk in the flesh, and we grieve and quench the Holy Spirit. Sin is incompatible with the ministry of the Holy Spirit who has given believers a new nature. We must be dependent on the Holy Spirit to help us walk in a manner that is worthy before God. Without the help from the Spirit, we would have neither the motivation nor the power to obey. It is the work of the Holy Spirit who can perform transformation in a repentant heart. By surrendering to His Holy Spirit, we allow Him to change our desires, our character, and our will to conform to His. We will begin to produce fruit. The word fruit is often used to describe a person's outward actions that result from the condition of the heart.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Something to ponder: Am I producing good fruit?

Can we make people doubt we are born of God? How?

For God's seed abides in him

His seed--the living word of God, made by the Holy Spirit the seed in us of a new life and the continual mean of sanctification. Jamieson-Faucett-Brown

The reason one cannot persist in habitual sin is that "God's seed abides in him." Since we have received the Holy Spirit, we are to walk in the ways of God by living and abiding in the word of God.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

1 Peter 1:23 Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

Because we are God's children, how should we live?

And he cannot keep on sinning

John reminds them that those who walk in fellowship with Jesus Christ do not keep on sinning because of their relationship with Christ. Believers are new creatures in Christ, and yes, we still struggle with sin, but without the Spirit, we would have no power to defeat sin. Believers should strive to live a life that is pleasing to God and avoid sin.

1 John 3:4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

1 John 3:6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

Salvation provides the forgiveness of sin, but it is not a license to sin. We will still sin, and for this we have the finished work of Christ on the cross and His ongoing advocacy for us in heaven. If we persist in our sin, then our loving Father will discipline us as His children. Thanks be to Jesus Christ, the only sinless One, who died and was raised from the dead so that we could be accepted as righteous in God's sight.

Hebrews 12:5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

Hebrews 12:11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Because he has been born of God

1 John 5:18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

To be born of God is to be inwardly renewed and restored to a holy calling available through the power of the Spirit of God. A believer cannot help but live differently because God lives within them. One who is committed to God does not practice sin or disobedience for sin is contrary to their new nature.

Psalm 32:2-3 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

Something to ponder: Do I live a renewed and restored life?