

1 John 3:10-11

12-13-23 Chris Young

1 John 3:10

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.

By this it is evident who are the children of God

Who are the children of God?

Becoming a child of God is seen as a sign of love from God the Father. Children of God have acknowledged their helplessness and through faith trusted in Jesus' atoning death on their behalf. Jesus is a believer's mediator and has reconciled them to the Father. Children of God belong to God's family and display His righteous character, their love for God and others, and they obey God's commands.

Galatians 3:26 For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

1 John 3:1a See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments.

Only those who are born again (spiritually) through the Holy Spirit are children of God.

Romans 5:5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

We are adopted into God's family through our relationship with Jesus Christ.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.

And who are the children of the devil

Those who only walk in sin and darkness cannot claim to be children of God. Satan's children practice sin. Their father is the originator and instigator of sin and rebellion against God and His law. Satan is a liar and the father of lies who deceives those who refuse to submit and follow God. Satan does not stand in God's truth because there is no truth in him! He destroys and distorts God's

Word with a twist here and there! He denies the truth of God's Word! His children are known as the children of wrath! Satan's family exhibits his sinful nature by their unrighteous works.

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.

Galatians 2:1-3 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—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Something to ponder: "There is no middle class between the children of God and the children of the devil." Jamieson-Brown-Fausset Commentary

Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God

Those who practice unrighteousness are of the devil. This is not describing an occasional sin but the practice of sin. They deliberately continue to walk in sin. Those who live a wicked life are known and controlled by the spirit of the devil.

John 8:47 Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.

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.

1 John 4:3 And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

3 John 1:11 Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

How do you prepare yourself for Satan's schemes?

Something to ponder: Do I seek to live according to God's ways?

To be righteous is to be right with God. All those who practice righteousness are righteous. It is God's standard what defines "true righteousness." The word "righteousness" can also mean justice, justness, or divine holiness. Righteousness is not obtained through man; it is God's power that enables it. Unless God is our Source, we will never possess righteousness. We fall short of His glory. His grace guarantees that we will forever be accepted as one of His righteous ones, even though we are not perfect.

1 John 3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as He is 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.

Something to ponder: Am I thankful that His righteousness is credited to my account?

Nor is the one who does not love his brother

Love is the sum and fulfilment of all righteousness and what separates God's children from the devil's children. We are commanded to love one another, and our neighbor as ourselves. It is not an option. The one who does not desire to love others cannot claim to be a child of God.

According to God's Word, what is it called when we dislike or hate others?

1 John 2:9-10 Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

1 John 4:8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

1 John 4:21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Christian love teaches us to value our brother's soul, and to dread every thing hurtful to his purity and peace. Matthew Henry Concise Commentary

What is the evidence of those who are children of God?

As His children, we are to imitate and share His love with others, including our enemies. The children of God show by their righteous works that they are His!

Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

Why are we to love, bless, do good and pray for our enemies?

Love for mankind, whether Christian believers or not, is the practical test of love to God. Teachers Commentary

Something to ponder: Do I share God's love to my family? Brothers and sisters in Christ? Friends? Neighbors? Enemies?

1 John 3:11

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning

This message/command concerning brotherly love was given to them by Christ and His apostles, from the beginning of the preaching of the gospel. God's message had not changed. Loving each other was not a new command. It was written in the Old Testament, *Leviticus 19:18* ***“You shall love your neighbor as yourself”***. What is new is that Jesus is the pattern we live by and the power we live on. Love is the central theme of Christianity. When we love others as Jesus loves, they too will know that we are his disciples because of His supernatural love we give to others. Believers are commanded to act in love with selflessness and sacrifice for others. To be a child of God, we must love others!

Matthew 22:37–40 And He said to him, **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”** One who doesn't desire to love others, cannot claim to be a child of God.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

1 Thessalonians 4:9 Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

What does God command us to do?

Love one another! The “one another” in these verses is a reference to fellow believers. The church is unique, its identifying factor is love. A mark of being a follower of Christ is a deep, sincere love for brothers and sisters in Christ. Their love is action!

Acts 2:44-45 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

1 John 4:21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

From the beginning God hath taught men that they should love one another. How essentially necessary this is to the comfort and well-being of man in this state of trial and difficulty, every sensible man must see. All are dependent upon all; all upon each, and each upon all. Mutual love makes this dependence pleasant and doubly profitable. Nothing can be more pleasing to an ingenuous (naïve) and generous mind than to communicate acts of kindness. Adame Clarke's Commentary

That we should love one another

Because of our fallen nature, love does not come naturally to us. Without the Lord, we are incapable of producing a sacrificial and selfless love. For us to understand what love looks like, we need to look at God's love for mankind. This love is Agape (Greek) love which is the highest and deepest form of love; this is unconditional love. This Agape love is shown by what it does as God's love displayed at the cross by Jesus for guilty sinners. God is love and His love is perfect!

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

God's love is a pure love. His love knows no prejudice of any kind! We act the most like Him when we love others from a pure heart, good conscience, and sincere faith.

1 Timothy 1:5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith.

1 Peter 1:22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.

What does it mean to love one another from a pure heart?

A pure heart has no hypocrisy, no hidden agendas or motives. God is the One who makes our hearts pure. The pure heart is displayed by transparency and an uncompromising desire to please God in all things. It is more than an outward purity of behavior; it is an internal purity of soul.

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

The Greek word for "pure" in Matthew 5:8 is *katharos*. It means to be "clean, blameless, unstained from guilt." The Greek word for heart in Matthew 5:8 is *kardeeah*. This can be applied to the physical heart. But it also refers to the spiritual center of life. It is where thoughts, desires, sense of purpose, will, understanding, and character reside.

1 Peter 1:22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.

Can loving others be difficult at times? Why?

God calls us to love them, be kind, and forgive them as God has forgiven us.

Ephesians 4:1-2 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

What are ways believers can express unconditional love through their actions?

We can be devoted and give preference to one another. **Romans 12:10** Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. We can build up one another. **Romans 14:19** Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. We can accept one another. **Romans 15:7** Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. We can care for one another. **1 Corinthians 12:25** That there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. We can serve one another. **Galatians 5:13** For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. We can bear one another's burden. **Galatians 6:2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. We can be kind, tender-hearted and forgiving with one another. **Ephesians 4:3** Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. We can regard others as more important. **Philippians 2:3** Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. We can bear with and forgive complaints against others. **Colossians 3:13** Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. We can encourage and esteem one another. **1 Thessalonians 5:11, 14** Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. We can pray for one another. **James 5:16** Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. We can love one another earnestly. **1 Peter 4:8** Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

If we "one anothered" each other, we would not have time to worry about our worries. We would be busy doing His work. Loving others is possible through the work of the Holy Spirit living within a believer. By obeying the Spirit we can love like Christ. As we display Christ's love to others, we glorify God in our body and in our spirit. Our body and spirit belong to Him as we were bought at a price! Let's glorify our God and love one another!

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.