

MARCH 15, 2021

1 John 3

AUTHOR: John—One of the 12 men that Jesus chose to be His disciples. Part of the ‘inner circle’ of Jesus’s disciples (with Peter and James), leaned on Jesus’ chest at the last supper. He also wrote the Gospel that bears his name.

This epistle was written to encourage believers and to confront false teachers/teachings that had infiltrated the church and were trying to lead people astray.

John is a gentle shepherd and pastor, often refers tenderly to his readers as ‘dear children’ or ‘dear friends’.

OVERVIEW: This chapter is really divided into two main thoughts. As followers of Jesus, we should:

- Live right
- Love well

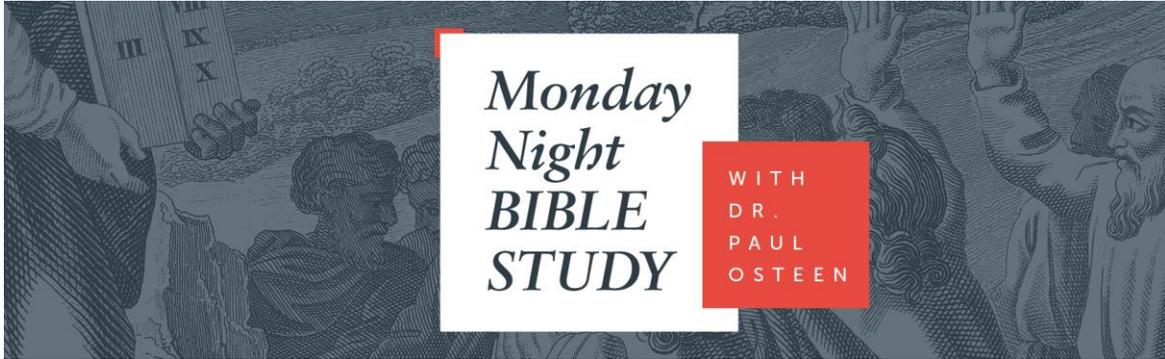
It matters how we live, and it matters how we love.

We ‘belong’ to the family of God. Jesus is our elder brother. We have a Heavenly Father who is kind and loving and patient and full of mercy. He loves us and protects us and provides for us and will always help us when we call on Him. We are children of God. (John 1:12-13, Romans 8:16)

VERSES 1-3

- We **HAVE BEEN CHANGED** when we were born again.
- We will **BE CHANGED** when Jesus comes back.
- We’re **BEING CHANGED** every day as we allow God to mold us and make us into who He wants us to be (the process of sanctification, of transformation).
- We are gradually made more and more into His image.
- We are going from glory to glory.
- We should be more like Jesus every day.

John is saying, as followers of Jesus we do everything we can do to avoid sin and live a godly life and a pure life—more and more each and every day. (1 Corinthians 15:51-54, Philippians 3:20-21, Romans 12:2, Philippians 2:12-13)



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The work of the new birth is what God has done for us. When we will be changed at the second coming of Jesus is something God does for us. But being changed now, being made more and more into His image is something WE have to participate in, we have to surrender our lives, we have to obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit, we have to depend on the Holy Spirit to help us. But we must do our part. (II Timothy 2:21-22)

VERSES 4-10

Once we are born again, once we put our faith in Jesus:

- There should be evidence that we have been changed on the inside.
- We should live differently than we did before we were born again.
- We should act differently than we did before we were born again.
- There should be FRUIT from God's seed that is inside of us.
- When we are born again, we become righteous in God's eyes...and it should cause a change in us so that we begin to live out that righteousness in our lives.

What this **doesn't** mean:

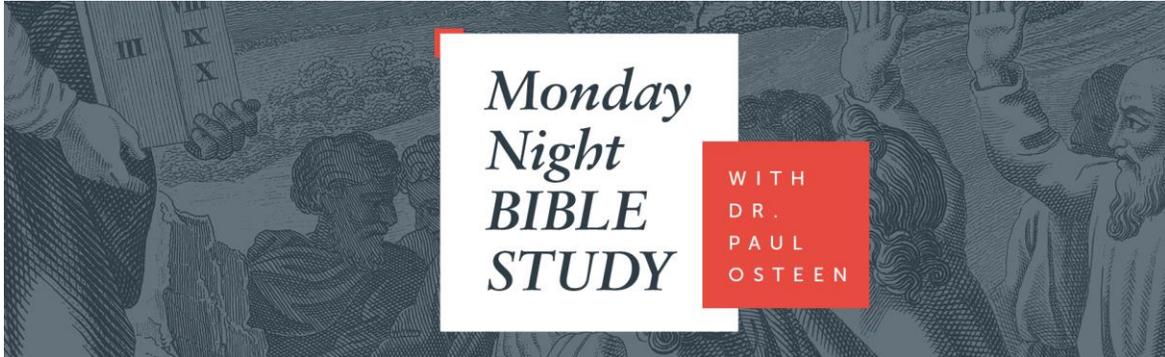
- It does not mean that we will get to a place where we will never sin. Until the day we die, or Jesus comes back, we will all make mistakes and have to confess our sins and ask for forgiveness. (I John 1:9)

What this **does** mean:

- Before we are born again, it is NATURAL for us to sin.
- When we are born again—something changes inside of us—it interrupts our life of continual sin.
- Once you are born again, you are ruined for sinning.
- When we are truly born again—things are different.
- We begin to lose our desire to sin.
- We have a desire to please God.
- The Holy Spirit will give us the power to overcome sin.
- If you live a lifestyle of habitual sin, if you have no desire to resist sin—John is saying, you should question whether there has been true heart change.

Takeaways From The First Part Of Chapter 3:

- As followers of Jesus, we are children of God.
- God wants us to live right—we are righteous in His eyes. He wants us to live out that righteousness in our daily lives.
- Introduction to next section: God wants us to love one another.



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VERSES 11-18

- We need to love one another, not with words but with action. (John 13:34-35, Luke 10:30-34, James 2:14-16, Romans 8:1-2, Hebrews 4:16)

SUMMARY:

- We are greatly loved by our Heavenly Father.
- We are children of the Most High God.
- God wants us to live right—to do everything we can do to live lives that please Him.
- God wants us to love each other—not just in words but with our actions.
- God wants us to keep our hearts of compassion open to those in need around us.
- He wants us to not live in condemnation that makes us fearful. But instead, to come boldly to Him with our requests.

