

1 John 3 – Faithful Instruction to God’s Church

1. What does it mean to be children of God or children of the Devil (see John 1:12-13; John 8:44)? Why doesn’t the world know Jesus (see John 18-19; John 16:2-3)? When John says “*now* we are children of God” what does he mean (see Rom 8:29)? Whose physical image will be bear in the future (see 1 Cor 15:49)? The hope of being found in Christ’s purity and righteousness at the second coming is the hope of every sincere Christian. Why is this so important, and what has Christ done to prepare us to stand at that time (See Heb 12:14; 2 Cor 7:1; Mt 5:8; Rom 5:1-2) (v. 1-3)

2. John does not want God’s people to be deceived (v. 7) and he wants them to plainly be able to tell the difference between children of God and children of the devil. What is the main way that John says both parties are revealed or manifested? How do Jesus’ own words parallel John’s thoughts here (See Matt 7:15-20)? How do we as Christians understand vs. 6 and 9? How do these verses challenge our own experience? What hope can the verses that immediately precede vs. 6 & 9 give us? How can we abide in Christ? How are we born of God? (v. 4-10)

3. What is the reason Cain murdered his brother? What is the reason the world hates believers? What is the litmus test for John as to whether we have passed from death into life? If we hate our brother, how does this effect us? (v. 11-15)

4. What standard of love of John hold up before believers? What are the implications of how we should love one another in light of this? What is the example given here of how we can know if the love of God is abiding in us? What is it that assures us that we are in the truth? What is it that assures us as we stand before God in the judgment? On what basis are the sheep and goats divided into two groups (See Matt 25:31-36)? (v. 16-21)

5. There are many promises about asking and receiving from God. Many of these promises give the prerequisites to receiving what we ask for. What prerequisites does John mention here to receiving the things we ask for? How much confidence does that give us that God will answer our prayers? What prerequisite does John give regarding how we can keep His commandments and love one another? What does John 6:28-29 say that adds strength to what John is telling us? Sometimes the strength of our faith is emphasized as the saving factor and we are discouraged because we feel we have weak faith or even no faith, but what do Jesus and Paul say about this (See Matt 17:20 and Rom 12:3)? What does Romans 10:10-13 say about this? What does it mean for us to abide in Him (See John 15:4)? How do we know if He abides in us? What confidence does this give us (See 1 Jn 2:28)? (v. 22-24)