*1-3 Personal* ***Purity*** *for the* ***Return of Christ***

(8) 1 Behold, what manner of love the Father has **bestowed** upon us, that we should be called the **sons of God**: therefore **the world knows us not, because it knew him not.** 2 Beloved, now we are the **sons of God**, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone that has this hope in him **purifies himself, even as he is pure.**

Note: 3:1-3 connects with 2:28-29. We keep pure (without the wrinkles, spots or blemishes on our white clothing of righteousness – Ephesians 5:22-33) by not continuing in sin (3:4-10). This is not alternating between good and bad..

*4-10 Continual* ***Sin*** *is of the* ***Devil***

(9)4 Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. 5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 6 Whosoever abides in him **sins not**: whosoever **sins** has not seen him, neither known him. 7 [Little] children, **let no man deceive you**: he that **does righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.** 8 He that commits **sin** is of the **devil**; for the **devil** sins **from the beginning**. For this purpose the **Son of God** was manifested, that he might destroy the **works of the** **devil**. 9 Whosoever is **born of God** does not commit **sin**; for **his seed remains in him:** and he cannot **sin,** because he is **born of God**.

10 In this the **children of God** are manifest, and the **children of the** **devil**: whosoever **does not righteousness is not of God**, neither he that **loves not his brother.**

Note: The antichrist and the devil are of the same source, nature, and destiny. The antichrist is addressed in 1 John 2:18-19 as a spirit and in the Tribulation as a person, while the devil relates to sin at all times, whether by idols, love of this world, the old man or self. Doing right is doing good, not just the absence of doing evil. As we walk after the Spirit we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Romans 8:1, 8:4, Galatians 5:19-23) or abide in Jesus (John 15:1-5) and Jesus destroys the works of the devil! Righteousness without love makes us a religious Pharisee, and love without righteousness makes us a partner of evil.

*11-18* ***Love*** *One Another in* ***Deed & Truth***

(10)11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (2:7, John 13:34) 12 **Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother** (Genesis 4:5-9, Hebrews 11:4.) And wherefore slew he him? Because his own **works** were evil, and his brother's **righteous**. 13 Marvel not, my brethren, **if the world hate you**. 14 We know that we have passed from **death** to life, because we love the brethren. **He that loves not [his] brother abides in death.** 15 Whosoever **hates** his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer has eternal life **abiding** in him. 16 Hereby perceive we the love [of God], because he laid down /put aside/ his life for us: and we ought to lay down /put aside/ [our] lives for the brethren. 17 But whoso has this world's good, and sees his brother have need, and shuts up his bowels [of compassion] from him, how dwells the love of God in him? **18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in a truth.**

Note: Mostly, God calls us to lay down our lives piece by piece, little by little in small, but important ways every day.

a Truth according to what is written in the Bible, which includes being honest and telling the truth.

*19-24 Our* ***Heart*** *Leads Personal* ***Prayer***

(11) 19 And hereby **we know that we are of the truth**, and shall assure our hearts before him. 20 For if our heart **convict** us, God is greater than our heart, and **knows all things**. 21 Beloved, if our heart convict us not, [then] have we **confidence toward God**. 22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his **commandments**, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. 23 And this is his **commandment,** That we should **believe** on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and **love one another**, as he gave us **commandment**. 24 And he that keeps his **commandments** **dwells** in him, and he in him. And hereby we **know** that he **abides** in us, **by the Spirit which he has given us.** (Spirit - 1st of 5x in 1 John. Pneuma can be with a capital S or small s, depending on context. Charisma – Anoint/Unction 3x, Jn 2:20, 27 Noun Initial-continual for all believers for teaching us- another office or function of the Spirit; pneuma. Only used in 1 John. Romans 8:16)

Note: ”Sometimes our heart condemns us, but, in doing so, it gives a wrong verdict, and then we have the satisfaction of being able to take the case into a higher court, for God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.”

Q – How do we know when does God convicts our hearts?  (Do not think on Jeremiah 17:9, but Acts 2)
A1 –We can harden our hearts to sin, which is very dangerous in respect to personal blessing and eternal reward.
A2 – The peace of God diminishes in our heart, mind, and feelings caused by an impure heart.

Application: I know in my heart I have confidence toward God. I must guard my heart. I must be sensitive to the conviction by the Spirit in me for immediate repentance and cleansing by the blood of Jesus. See lesson on prayer in 1 John 5:14-15 and John 15:7.