

As Children of God, how *should* we be acting, how *will* we be acting?

So, is there any reason for us NOT to act like that now? ☺ NO!!!

TODAY WE ARE GOING TO SPEAK TO NOT ONLY WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST, BUT HOW TO LIVE LIKE THE CHILD OF GOD WE ARE.....)

Last week we learned how important GRACE is as it is the manifestation of God's LOVE.....

So what is one of the most important ways we can manifest God's LOVE to others?

Since we are a discipleship church, with discipleship incorporated into EVERY aspect of our church...Here's what you can expect and what it might look like sometimes.....:)

AND WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN ALL THIS?? ☺

I was a TERRIBLE PREACHER in my first few years of teaching (Maybe longer) ☺
But someone believed in me...

TODAY'S TEXT

"ALREADY BUT NOT YET"IS THE KEY TO UNDERSTAND THIS TEXT

1John 3:4 *Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.* ⁵ You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. ⁷ Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; ⁸ the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one who is **born of God** practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is **born of God**. ¹⁰ By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

1John 3:11 *For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; ¹² not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.*

FIRST 3 VERSES

1John 3:4 *Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.*

REMEMBER: ALL Believers are Children of God and as such you have a NEW nature...You have been BORN AGAIN “SPIRITUALLY” and you NOW have the NATURE of your Father in Heaven!

THIS NEW NATURE YOU HAVE IS SIN FREE, as it is the very nature of your Heavenly Father...which is true, BUT what is also true is you are still stuck in this temporary FLESH body...IN OTHER WORDS God **began** something in you *(A transformation into your final GLORIFIED body that is NOT quite done YET!!!!)*

THIS ALREADY BUT NOT YET TRUTH....IS “NOT” AN EXCUSE TO GIVE UP ON VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING and just let your old SIN NATURE run amuck!

John’s use of “ABIDE” is critical to an accurate interpretation of 1 John!

Think of John’s use of “Abiding”Like you are walking with Jesus hand in hand, what is the LAST thing you are going to think about (SINNING)....This is where John is begging you to be, Walk with Jesus, Talk with Jesus, Camp out with Jesus and let your intimacy with Him, change your life 😊

POINT: When you are abiding in Christ, the Father and the Holy Spirit, **YOU CANNOT SIN!!!!!!**. However, the moment you step away or STOP ABIDING in God, it is game on with your old FLESH NATURE!

NEXT 2 VERSES

WHO's YOUR DADDY??? (God of Satan?)

⁷ *Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; ⁸ the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. . The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.*

ONE: REMEMBER, John is still dealing with False Teachers or Anti-Christ, who appear to be teaching that sin is NOT an issue!

TWO: ANY and ALL sin is of the Satan, **BUT** YOU are responsible for your choice

THREE: Jesus and the Holy Spirit gives you POWER OVER SIN (No Excuses☺)!

NEXT VERSE

⁹ *No one who is **born of God** practices (poie÷w poieo, poy-eh'-o) sin, because His seed **abides** in him; and he cannot sin, because he is **born of God**.*

Some want to make a big deal out of this phrase, "Practices sin", but this is an impossible standard to *quantify* and leads to Salvation by WORKS or OBEDIENCE...NOT!!!!

POINT: When you are Born of God, You **should** be acting according to the character of your Father (GOD). When you are **"ABIDING"** in accordance of your REAL SPIRITUAL FATHER, you won't/can't sin!

NEXT VERSE

¹⁰ *By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, **nor** the one who does not love his brother.*

POINT: On any given day, you choose whose Father you are going to imitate.....Satan of God? The children of Satan LOOK LIKE sin, and the children of God look like GOODNESS or RIGHTEOUSNESS.....

Don't forget, you CANNOT mimic your TRUE HEAVENLY FATHER in your own power and strength....YOU MUST TAP INTO THE HOLY SPIRIT by "Choosing" to ABIDE in HIM! (make sure to listen to sermon two weeks ago if you don't know how to do that ☺)

POINT: In God's view, "Righteousness and Loving your brother" are TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN!

NEXT TWO VERSES

1John 3:11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that **we should love one another;** ¹² **not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother.** And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

POINT: Every human has TWO FATHERS, an EARTHLY ONE and for some a "SPIRITUAL ONE"... **Cain and Abel had the SAME EARTHLY Father, Adam who DID NOT determine their ETERNAL destiny....** In spite of having the SAME earthly Father Cain was evil and Abel was good....

HEB. 11:4 *By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.*

I BELIEVE John's point is that Cain's SPIRITUAL FATHER was Satan and his actions proved it, **while Abel's SPIRITUAL FATHER was God,** thus his actions were in harmony with his TRUE SPIRITUAL FATHER.

POINT: You and I as believers are to live lives congruent with our TRUE SPIRITUAL FATHER who has caused us to be BORN OF GOD! AND, the only thing that is a challenge for believers again is our OLD SELF, our OLD MAN, our OLD FATHER SATAN who loves to stoke our OLD FLESH!

Our biggest challenge on this earth, is our flesh or sin nature...that must be put to death each and every day!

While Satan is pulling us BACK to who we used to be,
God continues to pull us FORWARD to who we TRULY ARE
PRESENTLY and will be FOREVER!

PAUL THE APOSTLE, one of the strongest Christians to walk on this earth, UNDERSTOOD THIS CHALLENGE and described it

well!!!!...include Rom. 7 and Paul's sin.... When he wrote, *"I no longer live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20),* he implied the same thing BECAUSE HAD BEEN BORN OF GOD AND CALL'S HIMSELF A "NEW" CREATURE IN CHRIST....

This is who YOU and I are when we are BORN AGAIN SPIRITUALLY OF GOD....we have a NEW SPIRITUAL FATHER.....No longer of Satan, But of the Lord Jesus and our ABBA FATHER, the creator of all things....(God BTW, did NOT create evil! Evil is the absence of God...AND the absence of all things of God)

STEVE: READ FROM BIBLE ROMANS 7:14

Rom. 7:14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. ¹⁷ So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. ¹⁹ For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. ²⁰ But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. *Rom. 7:21* I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. ²² For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, ²³ but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin. *Rom. 8:1* Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. *Rom. 8:9* However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. *Rom. 8:12* So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh — ¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

COMMUNION-YOU ARE A Born of God, NEW Creature in Christ
Because Jesus conquered SATAN, SIN AND DEATH!!!!