

First John 3:7-10

- 1) The command to be faithful to sound teaching—3:7 ⁷ *Little children/born ones* [τεκνίων], *let no one* [μηδείς] *be leading you^{pl} astray* [pres. act. impv. πλανάω];—3:7a
 - a) Beware of teachers that minimize the sinfulness of sin, or who are always crying “Legalism!” when it comes to discussing sanctification. Righteousness and knowledge of Christ cannot be divorced. (Burdick)

- 2) The contrast of two opposing lifestyles—3:7b-8a
 - a) The presence of genuine salvation—*the one characterized by practicing* [pres. act. ptc. ποιέω] *righteousness* [δικαιοσύνη] *is* [pres. act. ind. εἰμί] *righteous* [δίκαιος],
 - i) What is the standard? *just as* [καθώς] *That One* [ἐκεῖνος] *is* [pres. act. ind. εἰμί] *righteous* [δίκαιος]. (Cf. 3:5; Romans 6:5-14)
 - b) The absence of genuine salvation—⁸ *The one practicing* [pres. act. ptc. ποιέω] *sin* [ἁμαρτία] *is* [pres. act. ind. εἰμί] *from* [ἐκ] *the devil* [διάβολος]; (cf. John 8:44)
 - i) Why? *because* [ὅτι] *from* [ἀπό] *the beginning* [ἀρχή] *the devil* [διάβολος] *is sinning* [pres. act. ind. ἁμαρτάνω].
 - ii) Cf. Isaiah 14:13-14; Ezekiel 28:12-17

- 3) A purpose of the incarnation—3:8b (cf. 3:5)
 - a) *For this reason* [εἰς οὗτος] *the Son of God was revealed* [aor. pass. ind. φανερόω], *in order that* [ἵνα] *He may destroy* [aor. act. subj. λύω] *the works* [ἔργον] *of the devil* [διάβολος]. (cf. John 8:41; Hebrews 2:14)
 - i) This indicates the preexistence of the Son of God.

- 4) Two serious theological statements regarding the genuinely converted —3:9
 - a) The absence of habitual sin—⁹ *Each one* [πᾶς] *who has been fathered* [pf. pass. ptc. γεννάω] *of* [ἐκ] *God is not practicing* [pres. act. ind. ποιέω] *sin* [ἁμαρτία],
 - i) Why? *because* [ὅτι] *His seed* [σπέρμα] *is residing* [pres. act. ind. μένω] *in him*,
 - ii) We cannot continue living contrary to His nature.
 - b) The inability to habitually sin—and *he is not able* [pres. dep. ind. δύναμαι] *to be continually sinning* [pres. act. inf. ἁμαρτάνω]
 - i) Why? *because* [ὅτι] *he has been fathered* [pf. pass. ind. γεννάω] *of* [ἐκ] *God*.
 - ii) Genuine Christians are not sinners, but rather saints who sin. (cf. 1:8-10; 2:1)

- 5) Our lifestyle makes our source obvious—3:10 ¹⁰ *By this are evident/conspicuous* [φανερός] *the children* [τέκνον] *of God and the children* [τέκνον] *of the devil* [διάβολος]:
 - a) Family trait # 1 is righteousness or unrighteousness—*each one* [πᾶς] *who is not practicing* [pres. act. ptc. ποιέω] *righteousness* [δικαιοσύνη] *is* [pres. act. ind. εἰμί] *not of* [ἐκ] *God*, (cf. 2:29)
 - b) Family trait # 2 is love or no love—and *the one who is not loving* [pres. act. ptc. ἀγαπάω] *his brother*.

- 6) One does not grow into Christianity; one enters it by being born from above by God.

- 7) You will live like your father; so, who is your father, the devil or God