


Gospel of Grace
FELLOWSHIP

1 John 3:7-10

The Family of God or the Devil

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Do Not Be Deceived!

1 John 3:7 (NASB)
Little children, **make sure no one deceives you**; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

- We must not be deceived (1John 2:22; 26)
- No one can live as “lawless” and be righteous
- John sees no ambiguity
- Christ is the source of the believer’s righteousness and the One we want to be like

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Sin and the Devil

1John 3:8a (NASB)
the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil **has sinned from the beginning**.

- “Practices” is “doing” (present active participle)
- Practicing sin is the equivalent in this context with “lawlessness” (1John 3:4)
- “From the beginning” refers to Satan as the originator of sin (John 8:44)
- The devil is called the “serpent” in Rev. 12:9, alluding to the Garden temptation

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Stark Contrast: Righteousness vs. Sin

The one doing "the righteousness" = like Christ	The one doing "the sin" = "of the devil"
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John 8:41 "You are doing the deeds of **your father.**" They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God." **John 8:42** Jesus said to them, "**If God were your Father, you would love Me,** for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. . . . **John 8:44a** "You are of **your father the devil,** and you want to do the desires of **your father.** He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. . . **John 8:47** "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because **you are not of God.**"

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Christ Destroys Satan's Work

1John 3:8b (NASB)

The Son of God **appeared** for this purpose, to **destroy the works of the devil.**

- The pre-existent Son came into human history
- He came to *luo*_ (loose) the devil's works
- This happens through the cross (John 12:31-33)
- Believers are released from Satan's domain through Christ (1John 5:18, 19)

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Born of God

1John 3:9 (NASB)

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.**

- Literally it says "having been born of God" (present passive participle)
- "Cannot sin" uses "*ou dunamai*" - "without ability"
- Those born of God are objectively changed and will not embrace lawlessness (i.e., they 'abide')
- "Seed" is used to show we are descendents, i.e., part of His true family

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Either of God or of the Devil

1John 3:10 (NASB)

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.

- Our response to Christ and the gospel makes our spiritual parentage obvious
- Those born of God abide in Christ and love God's family
- Children of the devil do neither

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Two Opposing Families

God's

- Born of God (1Jn. 3:9)
- His Seed abides (1Jn. 3:9)
- Cannot sin (1Jn. 3:9)
- Children of God (1Jn. 3:10)
- Practices righteousness (1Jn. 3:7)
- Loves the brethren (1Jn. 3:14)

The Devil's

- Of the devil (1Jn. 3:8)
- Works of the devil (1Jn. 3:8)
- Practices sin (1Jn. 3:8)
- Children of the devil (1Jn. 3:10)
- Not practicing righteousness (1Jn. 3:10)
- Not loving brothers (1Jn. 3:10)

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Implications and Applications

- We must love the truth
- False prophets are known by their fruit

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True Worshippers Love the Truth

John 4:23, 24 (NASB)

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

- There are no holy places under the new covenant
- Christ is the truth (John 14:6) and we must be “born of the Spirit” to know Him (John 3:5)
- The Holy Spirit is the “Spirit of truth” (John 14:17)
- No pilgrimage will get one closer to God

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False Prophets Have Bad Fruit

Matthew 7:15, 16 (NASB)

Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?

- We must judge by what can be known
- Some will speak of Christ and claim to be Christians, but they do not truly speak for Christ
- They do not confess Christ according to the terms of the gospel (1John 4:2, 3; Jude 1:4)

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False Prophets Are Lawless

Matthew 7:22, 23 (NASB)

Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

- The bad fruit is “lawlessness” (Ps. 6:9 LXX)
- As in 1John, the key issue is abiding in Christ and His words (Matt. 7:24)
- Doing signs is inconclusive

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