

1 John 3

Chapter 3 of 5 · 24 Verses · Authorized King James Version

Children of God

¹ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth 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 every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

⁴ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth 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 abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

⁷ Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

⁸ He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth 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 doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth 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 doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Love One Another

11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. 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 unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

16 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Confidence Before God

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn 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 keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Believe — πιστεύω (Pisteuo)

To believe, trust, have faith

The Greek **pisteuo** (πιστεύω) means to believe or trust—active reliance upon Christ. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish' (John 3:16).

Eternal — αἰώνιος (Aiōnios)

Eternal, everlasting

The Greek **aiōnios** (αἰώνιος) denotes eternal or everlasting—unending duration. Believers possess 'eternal life' (John 3:16) now and will dwell with God eternally, while the impenitent face 'eternal punishment' (Matthew 25:46).

God — Θεός (Theos)

God

The Greek **Theos** (Θεός) refers to deity, used both for the one true God and false gods. Context determines whether it denotes the Father specifically or the Godhead generally.

Hope — ἐλπίς (Elpis)

Hope, expectation

The Greek **elpis** (ἐλπίς) denotes hope—confident expectation of good. This hope is 'an anchor of the soul' (Hebrews 6:19), grounded in Christ's resurrection and the believer's future inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Iniquity — ἀνομία (Anomia)

Lawlessness, iniquity

The Greek **anomia** (ἀνομία) means lawlessness—disregard for God's law. 'Sin is the transgression of the law' (1 John 3:4). Christ 'gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity' (Titus 2:14).

Love — ἀγάπη (Agape)

Divine love

The Greek **agape** (ἀγάπη) denotes self-sacrificial, unconditional love—the highest form of love, characterizing God's nature (1 John 4:8) and the love Christians are called to demonstrate.

Righteous — δίκαιος (Dikaios)

Righteous, just

The Greek **dikaios** (δίκαιος) means righteous or just—conforming to God's standard. Christ's righteousness is imputed to believers through faith (Romans 4:5), making them legally righteous before God.

Sin — ἁμαρτία (Hamartia)

Sin, missing the mark

The Greek **hamartia** (ἁμαρτία) means sin—missing the target of God's perfection. 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23), requiring Christ's atoning sacrifice.

Spirit — πνεῦμα (Pneuma)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Greek **pneuma** (πνεῦμα) means spirit, wind, or breath—the immaterial aspect of persons. The Holy Spirit (Pneuma Hagion) is the third person of the Trinity, dwelling in believers.

Truth — ἀλήθεια (Aletheia)

Truth, reality

The Greek **aletheia** (ἀλήθεια) denotes truth or reality—that which corresponds to actuality. Jesus declared, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life' (John 14:6), embodying ultimate reality.

CROSS REFERENCES

1 John 3:1

References God: John 1:12; Galatians 3:26; Revelation 21:7. **Parallel theme:** John 16:3; 17:25; Romans 8:32; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 3:29. **Love:** John 3:16; Romans 5:8

1 John 3:2 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 17:15; Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 13:12; 15:49; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 3:21; Colossians 3:4; 2 Peter 1:4; Revelation 22:4. **Love:** 1 Corinthians 2:9

1 John 3:3 **Parallel theme:** 1 John 2:6; Matthew 5:48; Acts 15:9; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 7:26; 12:14; 2 Peter 1:4; 3:14. **Hope:** Colossians 1:5; Titus 3:7

1 John 3:4

Sin: 1 John 5:17; 2 Corinthians 12:21; James 5:15. **Word:** Numbers 15:31; 1 Samuel 15:24; 1 Chronicles 10:13; 2 Chronicles 24:20; Daniel 9:11; Romans 3:20; 4:15

1 John 3:5 **Sin:** John 1:29; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 1:3; 4:15; 9:26; 9:28; 1 Peter 2:22; 2:24; 3:18; Revelation 1:5

1 John 3:6 **Parallel theme:** 1 John 2:4; 2:28; 3:2; 4:8; 2 Corinthians 4:6; 3 John 1:11. **Sin:** 1 John 3:9; 5:18

1 John 3:7 Righteousness: 1 John 2:1; 2:29; Psalms 45:7; 106:3; Acts 10:35; Romans 2:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Ephesians 5:9. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 2:26; 3:3

1 John 3:8 Evil: John 8:44; Hebrews 2:14. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 27:1; John 12:31; 16:11; Ephesians 2:2; Colossians 2:15. **References God:** Mark 1:24; Romans 16:20. **Sin:** 2 Peter 2:4

1 John 3:9

Sin: 1 John 5:18; Romans 6:2. **References God:** 1 John 4:7; 5:1; 5:4; John 1:13; 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 2:29; Galatians 5:17

1 John 3:10 Love: 1 John 4:8; 4:21; 5:2; Luke 6:35; 3 John 1:11. **Evil:** Matthew 13:38; John 8:44. **References God:** 1 John 4:6; John 8:47; Ephesians 5:1

1 John 3:11

Love: 1 John 4:7; 4:21; John 15:12; Ephesians 5:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Timothy 1:5; 1 Peter 3:8; 4:8; 2 John 1:5. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 1:5

1 John 3:12

Righteousness: Proverbs 29:27; Matthew 23:35; Hebrews 11:4. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 4:25; Luke 11:51; Jude 1:11. **Evil:** 1 Peter 4:4

1 John 3:13

Parallel theme: Ecclesiastes 5:8; Mark 13:13; Luke 21:17; John 17:14; 2 Timothy 3:12; James 4:4

1 John 3:14 Love: 1 John 3:23; 5:2; John 13:35; 15:12; Colossians 1:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; Hebrews 13:1; 1 Peter 1:22. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 25:40; John 5:24

1 John 3:15 Parallel theme: Matthew 5:28; John 8:44; Acts 23:14; Revelation 21:8

1 John 3:16 Love: John 3:16; 13:34; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 5:2; 5:25; Revelation 1:5. **References God:** Acts 20:28; Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 3:18. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 20:28

1 John 3:17 Good: Hebrews 13:16. **Love:** 1 John 4:20; 5:1. **Parallel theme:** Proverbs 12:10; 19:17; 28:9; Luke 3:11; 2 Corinthians 8:9; James 2:15

1 John 3:18 Love: Ezekiel 33:31; Romans 12:9; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:15; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:22. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 2:1

1 John 3:19 Truth: John 18:37; Hebrews 10:22. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 3:21; Isaiah 32:17; John 13:35; Romans 4:21; 2 Timothy 1:12

1 John 3:20 **Parallel theme:** Job 27:6; Jeremiah 17:10; 23:24; John 21:17; 1 Corinthians 4:4; Hebrews 4:13. **References God:** 1 John 4:4; Job 33:12

1 John 3:21 **Parallel theme:** 1 John 2:28; 5:14; Job 27:6; Psalms 101:2; 1 Corinthians 4:4; Hebrews 4:16; 10:22. **References God:** Job 22:26; 2 Corinthians 1:12. **Love:** 1 John 4:17

1 John 3:22 **Word:** John 15:7. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 5:14; Psalms 34:4; Proverbs 15:29; Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24; John 8:29; 14:13; James 1:5. **Sin:** John 9:31

1 John 3:23 **Love:** 1 John 3:11; 4:21; Mark 9:7; John 13:34; 15:12; Ephesians 5:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 4:8. **Faith:** John 6:29

1 John 3:24

Spirit: 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 2 Timothy 1:14. **Parallel theme:** 1 John 2:6; 4:7; John 17:21; 2 Corinthians 6:16. **Word:** 1 John 3:22

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