



1 John

Lavish Love

Living Loved Lives!

1 John 3:1-9

Message #6 of 10 – S712

Sermon given on November 6, 2016



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Living Loved Lives!

1 John 3:1-9

Opening Comments

- Turn to **1 John 3**
- Today, we continue our series **Lavish Love**
- We were created to worship and serve God and to be the objects of His perfect love
- And as we interact with and experience His love for us, it changes us
- It impacts every part of our lives and our lives are better because of the love of the God who loved us so much that He would send His own Son to save us
- Our problem is that we don't know how to interact with or experience His love as we should
- Something is getting in the way, and if we want better lives, we need to learn what to do about it
- If you are able and willing to do so, please stand as we read today's text as a sign of reverence for God's Word
- Read **1 John 3:1-9**
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Living Loved Lives!**
- John is going to begin today's text with three realities
- These three things are true for everyone who has been saved by Jesus
- First – **What we are**
- **1 John 3:1**
- We are children of God
- You might not understand how amazing that is
- Only through Jesus can someone be a child of God **John 1:12-13**
But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- No one else in this world has the privileges that we do as Christ-followers

- No one can experience the love of God the way we are entitled to through the shed blood of Jesus
- And notice, ‘love of the Father was bestowed on us’
- It was an act of His grace – nothing you could do to earn or deserve it
- As an act of faith, you simply receive it
- John goes on to say that if you are one of God’s children that the unbelieving world is not going to understand you
- And that is a problem for some – few people actually enjoy being misunderstood or different than the world
- But to live the best possible life we have to choose to live in a way that either causes the world to accept us, or we choose live in a way that pleases God – choose to be different
- The first reality is What we are – children of God
- The second reality – **What we shall be**
- **1 John 3:2**
- The Bible gives only dim glimpses of what life after death is going to be like
- The things that we are told about heaven don’t allow us to formulate a clear picture
- We do know a transformation is going to take place **Philippians 3:20-21**

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

- What exactly that will look like is hard to say
- The descriptions of Jesus after His resurrection gives us some clues, but still not clear
- What we do know is, ‘we shall be like Him’
- That doesn’t mean we are going to be God – at no point will we become divine, ever
- The word ‘like’ there = resemble or similar
- Jesus was fully God and fully man – we will resemble the man elements of Jesus - He alone will retain the divine elements
- What we are is children of God – what we shall be is like Jesus

- The third reality – **What we should be**
- **1 John 3:3**
- The ‘hope’ that John is referring to is what He has said in verses 1 and 2 – that because we are children of God = we will be like Jesus in heaven
- That hope should motivate us to do something
- Our transformation is a divine work that God through the Holy Spirit does in us
- But it is not done apart from our willing obedience to the Holy Spirit
- John says someone who has this hope ‘purifies himself’ = makes themselves a willing participant in the purification process
- We call that process sanctification – the gradual process of becoming like Jesus – more and more holy – less and less sinful
- You might not know this but on the night that Jesus was betrayed, He prayed for you – He prayed for all believers **John 17:20-21**
I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.
- Jesus’ prayer for us was that we would be ‘as He is’ in this life
- It is through this oneness that we experience all that God has promised to us
- But notice it says, ‘that they all **maybe** one’ – that implies choice on our part
- Let me give you an illustration out of baseball, since the World Series ended with the Chicago Cubs winning for the first time in 108 years
- If a batter hits a home run, that means he hits it over the outfield fence, it is an automatic run
- No one can tag him out, but he still has to do something, he has to run the bases - He has to touch all four bases
- Jesus, on the cross, hit a spiritual home run for all of who would believe – Home base = heaven
- And when we believe, we connect ourselves to Jesus’ home run
- And then we need to run the bases, which we do by purifying ourselves to become as He is

- We willingly allow the Word of God and the Spirit of God to transform us until we think like Jesus, until we talk like Jesus, and until we act like Jesus
- If you want to live a loved life, live in the realities that you are a child of the living, loving God, that you will be like Jesus in heaven, and that you should strive to be like Jesus in this life
- To do that we need to deal with something that few people like to talk about
- **1 John 3:4-5**
- John said in chapter 2 that if you know God you will keep His commandments
- The false teachers were saying that sin didn't really matter – only the spiritual mattered
- John says sin = lawlessness = a disregard for the commandments of God
- When a professed Christian practices deliberate sin, he is denying the whole work of Christ on the cross
- Then John makes a statement that has caused more than one Christian to stumble
- **1 John 3:6**
- The problem is not in what John said but in how it is translated into English
- There are no perfect translations – I like the NKJV, but here is a case where I think they could have translated it more clearly
- It has to do the verb tense usage – both 'sin' and 'sins' are in the present tense = continuous or linear action
- The ESV expresses what John is saying **1 John 3:6 ESV**
No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.
- John is saying someone who lives in deliberate sin is not abiding in Jesus – not seen Him or knows Him = lost
- They know God calls it sin, do it anyway and intend to continue
- Gives us the opposite state in the next verse
- **1 John 3:7**
- 'practices' – present tense

- Sin should be the exception in the life of a believer, not the normal behavior
- Again, John not saying we need to be perfect to be a Christian, otherwise we wouldn't need verses like **1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- 'confess' is in the present tense – continuous and ongoing
- John concludes this section by reminding us where sin comes from

- **1 John 3:8**

- Before you start blaming Satan for all your sin, understand that all he does is tempt us to sin – becomes sin when we choose to yield
- John is still referring to those who 'continue to sin' – living in deliberate sin
- 'of the devil' – he is their spiritual father **John 8:44**

You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

- Unless you are born again and are a child of God, the Bible says that you are under the power of the devil – that's why you sin
- On the cross Jesus defeated sin's power over 'whosoever will believe'
- Verse 9 is a repeat of verse 6 with additions

- **1 John 3:9**

- 'born of God' reminds us of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in John 3 – must be born again – of the Spirit
- John is not saying that Christians cannot sin, because he has already said that we can, that's why we need an Advocate in heaven, Jesus
- Saying they will not live in habitual deliberate sin
- Because 'His seed remains in him'
- It is not clear specifically what the 'seed' is = 'that which propagates' – produces life
- Could be Word of God, Holy Spirit, or the new nature – maybe all three
- All three work together to produce spiritual life in us

- If you have been born of God, meaning you have repented of your sins and received Jesus as your Savior, you are born again **Ephesians 2:1-3**

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

- From that instant, the power of sin is broken in your life – can say no to sin - But that doesn't mean you aren't going to sin
- It takes time for the Spirit to help us work out our salvation
- The Spirit is leading us toward the perfection of Jesus Christ
- As we walk with Jesus, learning to abide in Him, the Spirit reveals things to us things in our life that are not of God, not like Jesus
- It is up to us to then humble ourselves before God and allow Him to cleanse us of that sin - we have to do our part, we have to run the base
- As a born-again believer resisting that process will bring some level of discomfort into your life
- And the longer you resist, the more miserable you will become
- The more you abide in the love of God, the harder it is to sin against that love
- Freedom from that misery is simple, trust God and repent, and fall on His mercy for forgiveness
- Jesus came and died so that we could be free to glorify God, bless others, and to have an abundant life in Him
- You are a child of the living, loving God – live like God loves you
- You will be like Jesus – live with the hope of heaven firm in your mind
- You should be like Jesus – let the Holy Spirit use God's Word to purify you from all sin
- Child of God – you are loved with an infinite, unchanging love
- Choose today to enjoy living the loved life
- Amen - have a radical week