

**11.15.20 ~ 1John 3:4-11, A Christians Spiritual DNA is LOVE...**

**Read 1John 3:4-6...** Because Christians are "in Christ," we are to live as if we are incompatible with sin. The verb used (**1John 3:4**) in the phrase, "everyone who 'practices' sin," speaks to the habitual lifestyle of 'committing' sin.

We all have a conscience and we know right from wrong, whether believers or unbelievers (**Genesis 3:22**), "The Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil,'" (**Romans 2:15**), "They show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience [con=with, science=knowledge] bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them."

Unbelievers are controlled by the flesh because they do not have the Spirit of God (**Romans 8:8**), "and those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

Christians have a built-in sin detector [the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Christ] to help guard against the practice of sinning, for (**Romans 8:9**), "you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Do Christians sin? Yes! But because we have been born of God our new nature desires to avoid sin, not to practice sin.

**1John 3:4** says "Lawlessness" depicts those who live apart from God, those who ignore God's plan for people to exemplify Christ in their life.

Christ died to pay for our sins, and the Holy Spirit marks [indwells] those who have been made holy (**2Corinthians 5:21**), "He [God the Father] made Him [Christ the Son] who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

**1Corinthians 6:9-11**, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." **19-20**, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Listen! We are not to live in a pattern of sin, for we have been born-again by God's Spirit; a continual pattern of unbroken sin is representative of those who don't know Christ, those who are still dead in their sins.

**Read 1John 3:7-9...** There are those today who teach (as in John's day), that it doesn't matter how you live or what you do. John warns us not to be deceived or led astray by these false teachers and teachings.

God's children seek to do what God's Word says pleases Him. Those who reject God's Word and Christ's authority can't please Him because they are of the devil.

Ever since Satan's original rebellion and his eviction from the presence of God, Satan has diligently sought to destroy the plan of God, that being: To save and to sanctify a people who will love, serve, and desire to honor God.

Those who habitually practice sin belong to the devil [Greek, diabolos, "accuser," "slanderer") or Satan (Hebrew, "opposer," "adversary"). Satan is himself the originator for all sin and leads the rebellion against God.

Unsaved people are under the control and influence of Satan; in a sense, they are Satan's children, just as Christians are God's children.

Satan was created perfect, and he originally served in the very presence of God; then he willfully chose to rebel against God by placing his own pride above his worship of God (cf. **Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 24:13-14**).

To place any thoughts or actions above or against the sovereign authority and holy nature of God, is to exemplify the very foundational rebelling in heaven by Satan, which led to the ultimate deception of Adam and Eve on earth, and through their sin, came the curse of death to each and every person who is born.

God's plan all along, was that Jesus Christ would come and destroy that which had begun at the time of Satan's rebellion, he is the preeminent enemy of God.

Satan is aggressively working against God, trying to deceive, confuse and corrupt the very people of God; but one day that will cease and Satan will be sent to hell forever and he will no longer be an adversary of God or a deceiver of humans (**Revelation 20:10**), "And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

Through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ (**1John 3:9**) we have been given a new birth, a new nature; becoming children and servants of God.

**Read 1John 3:10-11...** There are only two groups of people on this earth: those who seek to do what is right are children of God; those who seek not to do what is right are children of the devil!

Let me speak to one of my pet peeves here. You know when you fill out an application or questionnaire for the County, State, or Federal Government, and it asks you to signify what your Race is, basically wanting to know if you are of the Black, Brown, Red, Yellow, or White Race.

Look! There are many ethnicities or nationalities, but there is only one Race, the human race. This has been scientifically proven and undeniably demonstrated through genetic research, which should not surprise us, as God's Word tells us that God made Adam and God made Eve and everyone on this planet came from them, as Paul says (**Acts 17:26**), "He [God] made from one *man* [Adam] every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation." Paul goes on to say (**verses 27-28**) that, the reason God made humans was so, "they would seek God... .. though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist."

Because God is righteous, we who belong to Him will also seek to be righteous. And our righteousness is most clearly seen when we express our love for one another (**John 13:34-35**), "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The apostle John was so affected by that statement that he repeated it in **1John 3:11**, "For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

As God's children, we have God's spiritual DNA, giving us the capacity to know, to receive, and to give God's love [*agape* - unconditional, uncompromising, unmerited, irrevocable, intentional, and eternal].

If we were loving others as Christ loved us [He died for us], there would be no need for laws or courts; for there would be no conflicts, no assaults, no thefts, no murders. Why? Because we would be treating one another the way we want to be treated; we would be living out **Ephesians 4:32**, "Be

kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

Jesus' love is sacrificial, compassionate, and forgiving; only that kind of love can fulfill the Greatest Commandment: Love the Lord with your heart, soul, mind, and strength (**Deuteronomy 6:5**; Matthew 22:36-40; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:25-37); the proof of which is displayed (Luke 10) by loving your neighbor as yourself (**Leviticus 19:18**; Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8). I'll expound on this next time, in **1John 3:10-18**.

If Christians exemplified that kind of love for God and for other people, the world would be in awe of Christ; but because many, calling themselves Christians, live as self-centered, pious hypocrites, lacking Christlike love, the church has become ineffectual, ignored, and even disliked, in this world.

Paul writes (**Ephesians 5:1-2**), “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.”

As a Christian, you are a new creation (**John 1:12-13**), “But as many as received Him [God’s Son, Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* 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.”

If you are a Christian, you are born-again from above, through God’s Spirit, made effectual by Christ’s atoning death on the cross. Therefore, it most definitely matters how you live, both what you do and why you do it should align with that which is taught in God’s Word and reflective of God’s character (**John 3:16**), “God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life....” God loves us, we are to love others (**1John 4:8**), “The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”

We who belong to God through Christ will seek to love others, as God has loved us, and has commanded us (**John 15:12**), “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.”

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