

**Refuge City Church — June 4, 2023**  
**“Made perfect, so practice” (1 John 3:1-10)**

***Introduction***

- **Review:** now that we are at the ‘halfway’ point in our study of 1 John, let’s look at what we’ve learned.
  - *Chapter 1:* A relationship with Jesus is an experiential relationship we can have here and now.
    - We walk in light because God is light.
    - If we claim to have fellowship with God, we ought to practice the truth [pursuing knowledge of God].
  - *Chapter 2:* Jesus is our greatest advocate.
    - We will sin, but if we keep pursuing His word, truth, abide in Him, and confess our sins, we will than experience what it is to love as He loves.
    - We ought to walk in Him.
    - We ought to love Him, and love others.
    - What we claim, we ought to follow up by our condition.
    - We ought to continue to grow in our fellowship and relationship with God.
    - By doing so, we won’t love the world or anything it has to offer.
    - Many will present lies about Jesus, but we can be confident in the truth that the Holy Spirit resides in us.
- *Chapter 3:* As children of God, we ought to practice righteousness. What does this look like?
  - Pastor Ray shared last week what the love of Jesus looks and sounds like.
  - **1 John 2:28-29**, “And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.” **[Jesus is returning!]**
    - **1 Corinthians 1:8**, “...as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, *guiltless* in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” [How do I remain guiltless as I wait?]
    - **Titus 2:11-14**, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” [Am I zealous for good works?]
    - **Revelation 3:11**, “I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.” [How do I hold fast?]
    - I’m glad you asked! Let’s get into it.
  - What we do/practice now will be reviewed in the presence of God when we stand before Him.
    - **2 Corinthians 5:10**, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

- ‘Practicing righteousness’ gives the indication of time.
  - **Definition [noun]:** the actual application or use of an idea, belief, or method, as opposed to theories relating to it.
  - **Definition [verb]:** perform (an activity) or exercise (a skill) repeatedly or regularly in order to improve or maintain one's proficiency.
  - It's something you do as you live, as you journey down this road of life.
  - It's the love off Him and being obedient to His commands on a joy-filled, willing basis.
  - Your obedience acts as an indicator that you are His child.

### **“This is who you are” [verse 1]**

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”

- The world will not recognize you, as a child of God.
- This is exactly why it strives so hard to conform you to it's way. [1 John 2:15-17]
  - **Romans 12:2**, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, *that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*”
- As a teacher, I'm constantly amazed at the way some of these kids behave... then I meet their parents.
  - In the same way, we should represent the image of God in who we are, what we say, and how we act!
  - **Galatians 3:27**, “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”... Are we living this way?

### **“This is who you will be” [Verses 2-3]**

“Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

- When Jesus appears, we will be like Him [glorified]
  - **1 Corinthians 13:12**, “For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.”
  - **2 Corinthians 3:18**, “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”
- Moses' veiled face [Exodus 34]
  - **Exodus 34:29**, “When Moses came down from Mount Sinai...Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.”
  - **Matthew 17:2**, “And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun...”
  - When you stand in the presence of God, you will be changed!
  - If He begins the transformation in us here, imagine when you're in His presence for eternity.

- So we seek to remain in Him now, practicing righteousness and keeping ourselves unstained from this world.
  - **2 Peter 1:3**, “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...”
  - You have everything you need to practice, to train. [Spirit of God and His Word]

### **“This is what you don’t do” [Verses 4-6]**

“Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.”

- John breaks it down in the simplest of terms.
  - If you *practice* sin, you are in abject opposition to God, period.
  - **Romans 6:2, 7**, “How can we who died to sin still live in it?... For one who has died has been set free from sin.”
  - In Him, there is no sin. Only freedom!
  - Verse 5: “In Him there is no sin.” [selah/pause/reflect]
- **Verse 6 [NLT]**: “Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is.”
  - **QUOTE**: “[deliberate] Sin is basically a matter of the will. For us to assert our will against God’s will is rebellion, and rebellion is the root of sin... No matter what his outward action may be, a sinner’s inward attitude is one of rebellion.” [Warren Wiersbe]
  - [golden calf] **Exodus 32:8**, “They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them.”
- This is why Jesus came! To stamp out sin. Remove confusion. Establish freedom!

### **“Don’t forget whose you are” [Verses 7-10]**

“Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

- John reaffirms the Christians identity as “children of God”.
- If you know Him, and know who you are, stand against those who want you to believe that you can deliberately sin against God and still be in fellowship with Him.
  - The devil will act to control the means of information you receive [people, every kind of media, materialism, etc.].
  - There is no doubt he is on the prowl in these last days!
  - **Genesis 3:4**, “But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die.’”
- The devil will constantly try to entreat you to look elsewhere for satisfaction, constantly feeding you LIES!

- **Genesis 3:6**, “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.”
- **Hebrews 2:14-18**, “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”
- **QUOTE:** A child of God is given a new nature, and that new nature does not and will not commit sin. The reason that the Prodigal Son could not stay in the pigpen is that he was not a pig. He was a son of the Father, and he longed for the Father's house.” [J. Vernon McGee]
- Who are you? Whose are you?
  - This is why we should constantly respond to a brother or sister in the Lord who is in sin, “That’s not who you are. You belong to the Lord.”

### ***Conclusion***

- **Clarification:** You don’t practice on your own accord to strive to be something that’s unattainable.
  - This is not about practicing more and more just so you can get into the ‘game’.
  - God would never tell you to practice what you can’t achieve.
  - Practicing is not to be seen as a ‘works-based’ scenario, in that the more you do, the easier it’ll be to get into heaven.
    - The theology of the ‘thief on the cross’ should straighten you out quick!
- This is about what you’ve been given, and how you ought to conduct yourself, maintaining a holy, pure fellowship with your Father in Heaven.
  - Practice with that in mind. Keep yourself in the position of fellowship.
  - Train to maintain who you are as a child of God, made perfect. Made in the image of God.