

March 16, 2025

## Children of God ABIDE (I John 3:10-10)

*We don't try to hit the bullseye every time, rather we ABIDE in Christ ALL the time.*

*Warmup: Growing up as a kid or teen, who had a fun house in your neighborhood? Why did you enjoy spending time there?*

READ I John 3:1-10, Genesis 1:27

- How is the blanket statement, “everyone is a child of God,” often confused with Genesis 1:27?
  
- In the first verse we see that God has given us \_\_\_\_\_. When have you recently contemplated God’s love for you?
  - For a follower of Christ obedience goes hand in hand with love. When is it difficult to love?

REFLECT

- How does *hope* purify us? (v2-3)
  
- In John 3:3 what truth does Jesus give to the religious leader Nicodemus?
  - Where had Nicodemus placed his faith?

**Cultural and Historical Background:** In the Jewish tradition, purification rituals were an essential part of religious life, often involving washing or other rites to remove ceremonial uncleanness. These practices were deeply rooted in the Mosaic Law, which prescribed various forms of purification for different types of impurity. In the Greco-Roman world, similar concepts of purification existed, often associated with religious rites and moral philosophy. The New Testament usage of "hagnizó" reflects these cultural understandings but emphasizes the internal spiritual purification that comes through faith in Christ.

- According to I John 1:9, why does a child of God not practice sin?
  
- What does John mean by “children of God do not sin”? At all? Inadvertently? Deliberately? Habitually?
  
- In his sermon, Brent described not sinning habitually as...?
  
- How do we discern between those who practice righteousness and those who do not?

*“To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ.”*

- John wrote Chapter 3 partly in response to Gnosticism. How did Brent explain Gnosticism in his sermon? How does Gnosticism give people a license to sin?
- How are you dealing with our society's "whatever is right for you" attitude (moral relativism)?
- What warning does John give Christians about being led astray?

**Cultural and Historical Background:** In the Greco-Roman world, the concept of "abiding" or "remaining" was often associated with loyalty and fidelity, whether in personal relationships, philosophical schools, or civic duties. In the context of the New Testament, "μένω" takes on a deeply spiritual connotation, reflecting the intimate and enduring relationship between believers and Christ. This abiding is not merely a physical presence but involves a spiritual and relational depth, akin to the rabbinic tradition of disciples remaining with their teacher to learn and emulate their way of life.

#### REFLECT

- How are you currently abiding in Christ?

#### RESPOND

- How is God's Spirit prompting you to abide in Him in perhaps a different way than you have before?

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