Assurance and Sin
Scripture: 1 John 3
Code: BQ081312

No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. (1 John 3:9–10)

John concludes this section with the summary statement, **By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God.** There are only two groups of people in the world (cf. Prov. 15:9): **the children of God and the children of the devil.** The first exhibits God's righteous character through obeying His law (cf.Luke 1:6); the second exhibits Satan's sinful character by disregarding the Word and habitually sinning (cf. Pss. 36:3; 119:150; Rom. 2:8). No matter what people may profess, or what past religious ritual or experience they may point to, **anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.**

The final phrase of this section, **nor the one who does not love his brother,** reaffirms to readers another aspect of John's moral test to identify true believers, namely the test of love (cf. John 13:34–35). For the apostle, it was also obvious that anyone claiming to be a Christian but not demonstrating brotherly love could not really be in Christ. He develops this argument in the remaining portion of chapter 3.

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