### 1 John

## Chapter 3

1Look at the type of love that the Father has given us… To be called the children of God (which is what we really are). And that’s the reason why the world doesn’t understand us… Because they don’t understand Him!  
  
2But loved ones, although we’re the children of The God, we really haven’t been shown what we’ll be yet. All we do know is that when [Jesus] is revealed, we’ll be like him, and then we’ll see him just as he is.  
  
3Therefore, all those who’ve been given this hope will purify themselves [so that they can be like him]. 4However, those who just keep on sinning are lawbreakers… For lawlessness is sin.  
  
5You already know that the reason why he showed himself [in the flesh] was to take away our sins, since there are no sins in him. 6Therefore, no one who’s in him will keep on sinning. However, those who continue to sin haven’t seen him or come to know him yet.  
  
  
7Little children,  
  
Don’t allow anyone to mislead you. Only those who do righteous things can be righteous in the same way that he’s righteous. 8For sinners come from the Slanderer, because the Slanderer has been sinning since ancient times. And the reason why the Son of God was shown [in the flesh] was to wipe away the deeds of the Slanderer.  
  
9Therefore, no one who’s been fathered by The God can remain a sinner, because His [life] is within him… He can’t keep on sinning, because God has become his Father!  
  
10Now, it’s easy to tell the children of God from the children of the Slanderer, for God doesn’t become a father to the unrighteous and to those who don’t love their brothers.  
  
11Indeed, from the earliest [days] you’ve heard the message that we must love each other! 12[We don’t want to be] like Cain who came from the wicked one and slaughtered his brother.  
  
And why did he slaughter him? Because what his brother did was righteous, while what he did was wicked. 13Therefore brothers, don’t be surprised that the world hates you!  
  
14We know that we’ve crossed over from ‘death’ to ‘life’ when we truly love our brothers. However, those who don’t love them just stay ‘dead.’ 15For whoever dislikes his brother is [just like] a murderer… And we all know that murderers won’t receive age-long life.  
  
16But we know that we’ve been loved, because [Jesus] gave his life for us… And this is why we should also be willing to lay down our lives for our brothers!  
  
17However, how can God’s love be in a person who may have the worldly means to give aid, but doesn’t feel any pity for his brother when he sees that he’s in need?  
  
  
18Little children,  
  
Don’t just love with your tongues and with words, but in reality, by doing [whatever is needed].  
  
19And this is how we can prove whether we’re really being truthful with ourselves and that our hearts can be confident when we stand before Him. 20But if our hearts are still condemning us, God is greater than our hearts and He knows all that’s going on in there!  
  
  
21Loved ones,  
  
If our hearts don’t condemn us, we can have full confidence in God 22and trust that we’ll receive whatever we ask of Him, because we’re obeying His commandments and doing the things that are pleasing in His eyes.  
  
23And this is what He’s commanded:  
  
We must believe in the name of His Son Jesus the Anointed One, and [we must] love each other… Just as He told us.  
  
24For those who keep His commandments are in Him, and He’s in them! Yes, this is how we can know that He’s in us:  
  
By the Spirit that He’s given us.