

# 1 John 3:1–9: “Whoever Sins is of the Devil,” i.e., We Must Not Behave like the Devil’s Children, Especially Since We’re Bound for Glory

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## I. Introduction

It is awesome to realize that the God of the universe acknowledges us as His children and that one day we will be like His Son. Knowing this should drive us to stay away from sin and pursue righteousness. It is also comforting to realize that, though sin drives us away from God (and to the Devil), Christ came to deliver us from our sinfulness.

## II. **Review:** There are No Shades of Gray in God, thus, There Should be None in Us

### 1 John 1:1 – 2:2, There are No Shades of Gray with God

1 John 1:1-4: John and those with him want to reveal to their audience the Eternal Life (Christ) they personally experienced so that they can have mutual fellowship with God and Christ and ultimately so that their joy may be full.

1 John 1:5 – 2:2: The message John and those with him personally received from Christ is: *God is light and in Him is **no** Darkness **at all***. This has ramifications for those who walk with God: they must be honest about the sin God’s light reveals. Knowing all this should drive us not to sin in the first place and if we do sin, it should drive us to confess it.

### 1 John 2:3–29, There Should be No Shades of Gray with Us

1 John 2:3–17: One way our fellowship (walk) with God is revealed is in the manner we treat our brothers and sisters. The moment we don’t love them, we are in disobedience to God’s commands and in darkness. Though this seems daunting, John assures his audience that they can and have done this, at every age level, which assures us.

1 John 2:18–26: John warns his audience of antichrists, who at one time walked with John and those with him, but who revealed themselves as antichrists when they denied that Jesus is the Christ. John then comforts his audience and assures them that they are not antichrists because they have God’s anointing.

1 John 2:27–29: John continues encouraging his audience that God’s anointing abides in them and is their source for abiding in Christ. So he urges them to continue abiding in Christ and pursue righteousness so that when He returns they will be bold and not ashamed.

- III. **1 John 3:1-3:** God's love towards us is awesome in that he accepts us as children and one day we will be like his son, which should drive us to always seek purity.

The type of love God reveals towards us is that He, the God of the universe, adopts us as His children, which is something the world does not recognize because it does not recognize/know Him, 2:3. Though we are God's children, one day, we will be transformed into His Son's image. This reality should drive us to be pure as Christ is pure, knowing that this is our future state.

- IV. **1 John 3:4-9:** God's message about sin is crystal clear: whoever sins is of the Devil, however, God provides in that Christ came to take away our sinfulness.

Since we're to pursue purity because one day this will be our final state, God wants us to be very clear: whoever sins is of the Devil. This is a harsh reality, but it's not meant to challenge our salvation. Instead, God want us to realize just how serious sin is. He also wants us to realize that His Son came to remove our sinfulness from us and when we abide in Him, that's exactly what He does.

- V. Conclusion

God calls us His children. What a privilege. We will one day be like His Son. What a tremendous hope. How should we respond? Unfortunately too often we respond by sinning against Him. However, God sent His Son to take away our sinfulness and all we need do is abide in Him, how tremendous.