

What Kind of Love

Righteousness vs. Lawlessness

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Series: Prove It

Scripture: 1 John 3:1-10

Synopsis: There is a great deception in Christianity today that Jesus has come just to save us from the penalty of sin when in reality He saves us from even the practice of sin. In today's message, we will learn that being born of God can be seen in our practice of righteousness.

Romans 7:14–16 ESV

¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.

Romans 7:17–18 ESV

¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

1 John 2:28–29 ESV

²⁸ 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. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

2 Peter 3:9 ESV

⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

1 Thessalonians 4:3–4 ESV

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,

“Righteousness is the practice of keeping God’s law and abiding in

Him.”

3 Motivating factors toward Righteousness.

Our accountability to Christ

1 John 2:28 ESV

²⁸ 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.

Our position of love as God’s children

1 John 2:29 ESV

²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

1 John 3:1 ESV

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.

Our hope in the appearing of Christ.

1 John 3:2–3 ESV

² 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. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Ephesians 2:11–12 ESV

¹¹ Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

2 Practices of Righteousness and Lawlessness.

1 John 3:4 ESV

⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

Lawlessness is a complete disregard of the person and ways of God which is an offence to God and people.

Our offence toward God is removed through Christ.

1 John 3:5–6 ESV

⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

“Jesus isn’t a funeral plan for later, but the Author of the new life today.”

New birth means new life.

1 John 3:7–8 ESV

⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸ 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.

“The great deception today is that salvation has nothing to do with repentance or practicing righteousness when repentance and righteousness is the whole point.”

1 John 3:9–10 ESV

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

› Conclusion and Next Steps

Repent from your sinful life, be born again, and experience a life in Jesus.

James 2:19 ESV

¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

Matthew 7:22–23 ESV

²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your

name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

Prove out the power of salvation through your practice of righteousness revealing your relationship with God.