

DISTINGUISHING the DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRUE CHRISTIANS and PROFESSING CHRISTIANS

◆ *Scripture Reading:*

◆ I John 3:1-11



INTRODUCTION and REVIEW

◇ 1 John 3:1-3 states:

◇ **Our identity as children of God** (born-ones)

◇ **Our future glorification**, which results in

◇ **Our present purpose:**

◇ **To be separated UNTO Christ:**

◇ **To our position in Christ, and**

◇ **To His will for our daily lives**

INTRODUCTION and REVIEW

◇ I John 3:4

- ◇ **Sin** (acting contrary to what God expects from us) **disrupts our ability to ABIDE (feel at ease) in our present purpose**

◇ I John 3:5

- ◇ **Explains God's provision of protection from the interruption of sin**

INTRODUCTION

- ◆ Now in I Jn 3: 6-11, we are given the distinguishing characteristics between those who are
 - ◆ **True believers**
 - ◆ **Those who only profess to be related to Christ**

The Difference Between (Habitually) Practicing Sin and NOT (Habitually) Practicing Sin (I Jn 3:6)

- ◇ The abiding believer (the one feeling at ease in his position in Christ) does not practice sin (keep on sinning) because:
 - ◇ He feels at ease in God's Word and God's Word feels at ease in him - I Jn 2:14, 24
 - ◇ He keeps "short accounts" of any sin he may do - I Jn 1:9
 - ◇ He does not want to bring "ill-repute" against the Father, by Satan - I Jn 2:1, cf Rev 12:10

The Difference Between (Habitually) Practicing Sin and NOT (Habitually) Practicing Sin (I Jn 3:6)

◇ The one who practices sin habitually

- ◇ Has not seen Christ with understanding (in his mind)
 - cf Jn 20:5-8
- ◇ Has not experientially known Christ (by the new birth)
 - cf Jn 14: 20

The Difference Between the SOURCE of the **Practice of the Righteousness** and the **Practice of Sin** (I Jn 3:7-8)

- ◇ The one practicing THE righteousness is righteous as Christ is righteous (vs 7)
 - ◇ “the righteousness” cf vs 2:29
 - ◇ Feeling at ease in loving the brethren – cf 2:6, 10, 19
 - ◇ The act of righteousness demonstrates the state of being righteous

The Difference Between the SOURCE of the **Practice of the Righteousness** and the **Practice of Sin** (I Jn 3:7-8)

- ◆ The one practicing sin is of the Deceiver (as to source) – vs 8, cf Jn 8:44
- ◆ The Deceiver has been sinning since his fall - Isa 14, Ezek 28
- ◆ The Son of God was manifested to undo the works of the Deceiver – cf Gen 3:15. Jn 3:16

The Reason Why the NT Grace-Believer Cannot Habitually Sin (1 Jn 3:9)

- ◇ Because God's seed (God's Life and nature) feels at ease in the believer
 - ◇ We belong to the Father, who birthed us
 - ◇ He WILL accomplish in us what He has determined
 - ◇ Therefore, we are unable to habitually sin
 - ◇ Cf Heb 12:6-8, I Cor 11:31-32

The Test that Distinguishes Gods Children (1 Jn 3:10)

- ◆ The practice of righteousness
- ◆ Satan's "born-ones"
 - ◆ When Satan tempted Eve and Adam to sin, he became their spiritual father of death

CONCLUSION

◆ The believer's Father has fathered us unto **ETERNAL LIFE** (out from spiritual death).

Therefore Remember:

◆ We are HIS born-ones

◆ Our future glorification will cause us to be like our Savior in His glorified humanity

◆ Our purpose today is to be purified (separated) unto our position in Christ and His revealed will for our lives (1 Jn 3:11)