

Evidence of Salvation

1 John 3:10-15

I. Introduction:

A. Context

1. In verses 4 -9 of this chapter, John contrasted children of God w/ children of the devil.
2. Things to remember regarding being children of God:
 - (1) – Children by Creation
 - a. All of humanity are God’s children by creation. All humans were created by God.
 - b. In the physical sense we are all His children.
 - (2) – Spiritual children

Beyond simply being children of God by creation, there’re two spiritual families.

 - a. Spiritual children of God
 - i. Those saved by faith in Jesus are the spiritual children of God.
 - ii. They’ve been forgiven their sin and adopted into the family of God.
 - iii. The children of God will spend eternity with Him.
 - b. Spiritual children of Satan
 - i. Those who remain lost in their sin are the spiritual children of the devil.
 - ii. Those who reject God’s offer of salvation through Jesus Christ remain in their sin & are the children of Satan. They’ll spend eternity in the lake the fire

II. Evidence of which family (1 John 3:10-12)

Just as a tree ‘s fruit tells what kind of tree it is, so a person’s life reveals who they’re inside

A. Family relation made evident

1. To make **manifest** means to reveal or make known.
2. A child of God is known as a child of God by the evidence in their life.
3. A child of Satan is known as a child of Satan by the evidence in their life.
4. Person’s a genuine child of God when they confess their sin to God & by faith in Jesus ask for His forgiveness. Evidence of Holy Spirit’s new birth will be manifest in their life.

B. What Evidence?

The outward evidence of true inward conversion is righteousness. (1 John 3:10)

1. – Practical righteousness is evidence of genuine conversion.
 - a. He who practices righteousness gives outward evidence they’re spiritual child of God
 - b. Not perfectionism: John’s not speaking of practical perfection in Christian life where one never sins again post salvation, but rather having a habit of righteousness & living in obedience to God’s word.
 - c. A righteous lifestyle is the outward fruit of being righteous on the inside.
2. – He who does not practice righteousness.
 - a. He who lives a life of rebellion against God’s word bears fruit of a child of Satan.
 - b. One can say they’re a child of God, but if there’s no evidence of righteousness, then they’re child of the devil. Unrighteousness is characteristic of the lost world.

C. Self Examination

1. Here is the point where we should do a self-examination. **(2 Corinthians 13:5)**
2. Ask yourself if there’s evidence in your life corroborating your profession of being a child of God? Are you drawn to God’s word, to obedience, to righteousness?

D. Righteousness defined

1. How can we define **righteousness** and what does it look like? If it's outward evidence of genuine salvation in Christ, then for what should I be looking?
2. Greatest & most obvious outward manifestation of righteousness is love. **(1 Jn. 3:10)**
3. This is the love of God, agape love. Not an emotional or selfish love.
4. Those who are genuinely saved will manifest God's love for others. **(John 13:35)**

III. John's Example (1 John 3:11-12)**A. Cain and Able**

1. Cain and Able were the first two children of Adam and Eve.
2. Cain was unrighteous. Able was righteous. **(Genesis 4:3-5)**
3. Cain's offering was rejected for sin /failure on his part. Rather than be convicted over the sin causing his offering to be rejected by God, Cain became angry with his brother.
4. Cain was angry with his brother simply because his brother was righteous.
5. God warned Cain concerning his anger and where it would lead. **(Genesis 4:6-7)**
6. God told Cain if he confessed his sin, he'd be righteous too & his offering accepted.
7. But if not, sin would be the ruin of him. The 1st murder was because of unrighteousness
8. The 1st murder in the world was brother against brother in 1st generation! **(Gen. 4:8)**

B. John's Application

1. Righteousness is seen predominately in the way we love.
2. Cain killed his brother because his deeds were evil, there was no righteousness in him.
3. Because there was not righteousness, there was not love.
4. Jesus stated this very truth in the sermon on the mount. **(Matthew 5:21-22a)**
5. A lack of love for others is spoken of by Jesus as synonymous with murder.

IV. Animosity between light and darkness (1 John 3:13-15)**A. We should not be surprised.**

1. The unrighteous will always hate the righteous. That hatred is born out of conviction.
2. When lost people are around child of God, they're convicted over what they should be.
3. The child of God, who's living righteously, is perpetual irritant to the lost over their sin
4. The world hates Christians because a righteous life is a light of truth in darkness.
5. God is indeed glorified by a righteous life. **(Matthew 5:16)**

B. What we can know: Four things

1. – Love is the evidence of genuine salvation.
 - a. A righteous life is built on the foundation of love.
 - b. If we see God's love working in our lives, we surely know, we're in God's family.
2. – An absence of love indicates a person is lost.
 - a. If a person lacks love and empathy for others, it is a sure sign they are lost.
3. – Hating is synonymous with murder.
 - a. To hate someone is to be a murderer in God's eyes.
 - b. Those who hate and are thus a murderer are not saved.
4. – No murderer has a place in heaven.
 - a. The reason an active hater, & active murderer has no place in heaven is they are lost.
 - b. No lost person can have fellowship with God.