

When Christ Enters In A Character to Develop 1 John 2.29-3.10

[So far in 1 John we have discovered that there is:]

- [A Conversion to Choose]
- [A Consecration To Develop]
- [A Cleansing To Receive]
- [A Commandment To Keep]
- [A Compassion To Show]
- [A Caution To Heed]
- [A Confusion To Understand]

[Why do people live the way they do? Why do people do the things they do?]

[Vs 29 - *If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.* - Do righteousness, not because you have to live a right life, but because you want to live a right life in Christ. **Your want to will be changed by the presence of Christ in you.**]

[**Mark Twain** once said, *“Always do right. This will gratify most people, and astonish the rest.”*]

[**John Wesley** once said – *“Good men avoid sin from the love of virtue. Wicked men avoid sin from a fear of punishment.”* - In *The Almost Christian.*]

[So what is it that compels you to live a right life? The right life that you live, is it just what you think is right, or do you strive for what God reveals to be a right life. Is there a difference?] There can be a vast difference between **what you think is right** and **what God reveals is right**. Certainly society has a very different idea of what is right.]

[In June of 2015, the US Supreme Court legalize gay marriage in America. In May of 2011 public opinion of gay marriage rose above 50% in America for the first time. From this we must realize that no matter how much a majority declares something to be right, like homosexuality, no matter how many laws a government passes declaring something to be right, sin and immorality will always be wrong if God has declared it to be wrong.]

In the book of Judges a recurring theme is that, **Every man did what was right in his own eye.** That is our world today.]

[So, just what is right and wrong to you? What is the basis for right and wrong to you?]

[A Christian ought to have a clear understanding of what right and wrong is in the sight of God. A Christian who has Christ In Him ought to **want to live** his life in a way that honors and is accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ.]

[So why do we live the way we do?]

Living a right life in Christ is,

A. The Result Of Godly Expectation - Purity (vs 2-3; Rev 21.4) [– “*And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*” - **Expectation** is a dynamic motivator. It compels us to do what we might otherwise prolong. Knowing that an inspection, exam, or deadline is drawing near forces us to complete the tasks required for the upcoming event.]

[The context of verses 1-3 in our text reminds us that as the born again children of our Lord, we, in our mortality, are not all that our Lord intends for us to be. One day soon our Heavenly Father is going to send our Lord Jesus Christ to call us into eternity. Then, when this mortality has put on immortality and this corruption has put on incorruption (1 Cor 15.54), we will appear as God intended for us to be from the beginning. We will be as our Lord Jesus Christ was after His resurrection and still is today. Our Lord was physical, flesh and bones (Luke 24.39), yet he was glorified in that he could just appear in a room.]

[This state of being, one that is glorified and perfected speaks to us as Christians of our future eternal state of being. We will be real beings. We will have real bodies. Yet our bodies will be glorified, eternal, perfect bodies. This causes us to think of,]

[Revelation 21:4 *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*]

[Hence we hear the inspired words of this passage,]

[1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.]

[And our hearts leap with hope and joy as John continues to write in verse 3,]

[vs 3 - And every man that hath this hope in him . . .]

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A. The Result of Godly Expectation - Purity

[Our eternal hope, our understanding of our coming immortal being, our ability to hear and cleave to our Lord's promises concerning our transformation to come ought to impact us in undeniable ways. The fact that we are taught in God's Word that this transformation could occur in a moment, even before our mortal death, ought have an indescribable impact upon the way we live our lives.]

[Think about what our study in 1 John is entitled, **"When Jesus Enters In."** What an amazing supernatural transformation takes place when our Lord makes Himself real within us. How much greater will be that transformation when we stand in His actual physical presence. That reality is coming soon upon us.]

[In a spiritual sense our expectancy concerning the soon return of our Lord should lead us to,]

1. **Make Our Preparation (vs 3; Luke 12.42-48; Rev 21.2; Philip 3.14)** [– Being ready to stand in the presence of our Lord is an undeniable theme that permeates the New Testament. The numerous passages dealing with our mortal preparations of our coming immortality are more than could fully be expounded in this discourse. Some of these passages refer to our,]

Luke 12.42

[Stewardship] – Our Lord referred often to faithful stewards and unfaithful stewards as examples of how every Christian ought to anticipate the arrival of our Lord's Kingdom and ought to be found fully prepared when it arrives. Our Lord spoke of both wise and unwise stewards when He said,]

[**Luke 12:42-47** And the Lord said, Who then is that **faithful and wise steward**, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? ⁴³ **Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.** ⁴⁴ Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. ⁴⁵ But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his

coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; ⁴⁶ The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷ **And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.** ⁴⁸ But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.]

[Clearly our expectancy or anticipation of our Lord's arrival will have an undeniable impact upon the preparation we will make in His kingdom's work.]

[We must strive to be faithful and good stewards. The Christ in us will seek to drive us to be faithful and good stewards.]

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A. The Result of Godly Expectation – Purity
1. Make our Preparation
Stewardship

Rev 21.2

[Engagement] – The idea of our espousal or engagement to our Lord lends to us the idea of making our preparation for our upcoming marriage to our Lord. It provides the word picture of a bride making herself ready for her wedding day. In the Revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ the apostle John wrote,]

[Revelation 21:2 *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**]*

[Hence, as we await the arrival of our Lord we ought to be making the needed diligent preparations that a bride would make as her wedding day nears and arrives. No one would dare say that a bride, in her sense of expectancy, does not laboriously prepare for her wedding day. With tenacity the average bride will labor for perfection. Too many Christians in our day are striving for some marginal sense of acceptability, which is almost always expressed in some lowered form or standard, rather than striving for the High Calling of our Lord's Royal family.]

[Philippians 3:14 *I press toward the mark for the prize of the **high calling** of God in Christ Jesus.*]

[Our preparation for our Lord ought to strive for the **High Calling** that our soon coming Lord deserves. Too many in our churches have lost site of the Highness of our Lord, in the way we dress, in the way we serve, in the way we minister. Our Lord is King of Kings, and Lord of Lord's and deserves our very best!]

[A brides expectation not only speaks to us of our preparation but it also speaks to us of the nature of our preparation. It speaks to us of the purity that ought to permeate our preparation.]

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A. The Result of Godly Expectation – Purity
1. Make our Preparation
Stewardship
Engagement - Espousal

2. Maintain Our Purity (vs 3; Rev 21.2) [–

And every man that hath this hope in him

purifieth himself, *even as he is pure.* – An expectation will lead us to make a preparation. This same expectation will also drive us toward purification. A bride not only plans and prepares for her wedding but she also “adorns” (Rev 21.2) herself for her wedding.]

[Revelation 21:2 *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride* **adorned** *for her husband.*]

[Likewise a child of God that understands with expectancy the arrival of their Lord and adds to that expectancy the holiness and worthiness of their Lord will strive with diligence to purify themselves for their audience with their Lord.]

[Sanctification and purification ought to fit neatly together in our Christian minds. To become more and more like our Lord in holiness and righteousness ought to be a natural part of every Christian's spiritual growth. It is difficult to understand how a child of God, who is anticipating the arrival of their Lord, could marginalize their preparation for their Lord and the purity that naturally accompanies it.]

[Faltering purity and preparation are evidences of a failing expectancy.]

[Christian, would you say that you, your life, is adorned for the arrival of our Spiritual Bride Groom, the Lord Jesus Christ?]

3. Manifest Our Passion (vs 1; 1 Peter 4.3-5) [– **Behold**, *what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.* – Our expectancy

1 Pet 4.3

will drive our preparation, guide our purity and govern our passions. Those things that seemed important to us as lost individuals will dim in comparison to those eternal values that will now drive us as Christians. Our godly character will be formed by a new standard, the standard set by our eternal Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.]

[Our preparation and purification for our Lord will be driven by our passion toward our Lord and His eternal

Kingdom. The carnal world we were once a part of will become foreign to us and we will become foreigners in it.]

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A. The Result of Godly Expectation – Purity

1. Make our Preparation
2. Maintain our Purity
3. Manifest our Passion

[Peter wrote it this way,]

[1 Peter 4:3-5 *For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:* ⁴ **Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:** ⁵ *Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.]*

[In other words those who are in the world and knew you when you were a part of the world will no longer understand what is going on in your life. You, in your passion toward your Lord are making an eternal preparation that is leading you into a continuing and growing purification that is just ridiculous to your old lost friends. You have indeed become a **Jesus Freak** and they just can't get their minds wrapped around that. Why are you making the purifying preparations that have transformed your life? Because you have become passionate about the one who passionately gave everything for you, your Lord Jesus Christ.]

B. The Reality Of Godly Exposure - Action (1 John 3.4-8) [– Someone may say they know the Lord Jesus Christ, but the true test of your relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ is manifested in the way you live your life. There are many multitudes who have an intellectual understanding concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, but they do not have a personal relationship with Him. **So the question being approached by John in verses 4-8 is what is the evidence of your exposure to our Lord? John's answer is simple, your actions are on the other side of the equal sign when it comes to the question, "Do you really know the Lord?"**]

[If you have really received the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, and if the Holy Spirit of God has really come to **dwell inside your heart and life**, then there must be a deep spiritual work taking place inside of you. This spiritual work will manifest itself in the deep spiritual Passion, Preparation, and Purity that we just examined. If these are missing in your life, then **the Character of God** is not developing in you and the truth being evidenced in your life is a lack of eternal life rather than the evidence of eternal life.]

[If you are truly walking in fellowship and communion with God, through the new birth, then the result of that companionship should mark your life. This is never more clearly evidenced than it is in regard to sin in an individual's life.]

[John notes,]

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A. The Result of Godly Expectation – Purity

1. Make our Preparation
2. Maintain our Purity
3. Manifest our Passion

B. The Reality of Godly Exposure

1. The Removal of Sin (vs 4-5; Isa 59.2; cf. Heb 4.15; 1 Pet 2.22; Col 1.14; Rom 3.23; Gal4.4-5; Rom 6.14) [- *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.* ⁵ *And ye know that he was manifested to **take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*** – When you walk with the Lord Jesus Christ then His heart will soon become your heart, His desires will soon become your desires. One thing is certain our Lord cannot stand in the presence of sin.]

[Isaiah 59:2 *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*]

[So our Lord and Savior, who never committed any sin (Heb 4.15; 1 Pet 2.22), died and shed His precious blood to take away our sin (Col 1.4), will not stand in the presence of sin. Now, we all know that we are all sinners (Rom 3.23), but our Lord saved us to redeem us **from** all our sins (Gal 4.4-5). Hence, born again Christians are sinners who have been brought out of the dominion of sin (Rom 6.14) that they might have fellowship with their Lord.]

[Hence, **the undeniable effect of our Lord's presence within a Christian's life will be a continuing growth away from sin and sinfulness and a determined desire for righteousness and purity.** The affect that a real relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ will have on a truly born again Christian will be **a developing character of Preparation, and Purity driven by a holy Passion.**]

[The presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in a Christian's life will be marked, without any doubt, by a passionate desire to be distanced from sin and sinfulness.]

2. The Rebuke of Sin (vs 6; 1 John 1.9-2.1)

[– Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him,

1 John 1.9

neither known him. – The Apostle John further expounds the evidence of sin and sinfulness in a professed Christian's life when he reveals what we might call the **Rebuke Of Sin** in verse 6. In essence John

is saying, if there is willful sin and sinfulness in your life, then you just do not, you just cannot, know the Lord Jesus Christ at all.]

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B. The Reality of Godly Exposure

1. The Removal of sins

[With certainty the apostle is not saying that Christians never sin. Just a few verses ago in this same book of the Bible John wrote,]

[1 John 1:9-2:1 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* ¹⁰ *If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.* 1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:]*

[What John is clearly saying is that if you claim to be a child of God, and you find yourself living in a lifestyle of sin and sinfulness, then you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ, and you are not walking under the influence of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (Almighty God in you). Because if Jesus were in your heart and life you would never be able to live with yourself as long as you are living in sin.]

[Born again Christians sometimes sin, but when they sin they will come under the heartfelt, immediate conviction of the presence of God within them. That undeniable, spiritual, powerful, and heart rending voice of God, against their sin will remove any sense of peace and tranquility from their sense of being until such time as they repent and get their life right with God.]

[Without any doubt the Apostle John is saying, if you want to know whether or not you are really saved, just look at your life and ask yourself, **“Can I live with sin in my life?”** If you can, you can call yourself a Christian as long and loud

as you like, but the scriptural truth is, you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ.]

3. The Regard of Sin (vs 7-8; James 2.19;

John 1.12-13) [– Little children, **let no man deceive you:** *he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.*⁸ *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.* – In verse 7-8 the

Apostle John reiterates with undeniable clarity what he has already said in the previous verses. **If you are walking with the Lord Jesus Christ then spiritual Preparation and Purity will mark your life with a Passion.** These will manifest themselves in an undeniable mark of righteousness upon your character and life.]

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B. The Reality of Godly Exposure

1. The Removal of sin
2. The Rebuke of sin

[However, if sin and sinfulness mark your life, then you need to know and see who and what you are. **You are a child of the devil and you are lost and undone without the Lord Jesus Christ in your life.** Your eternal destiny has been eternally revealed by God, you are on your way to Hell and an eternity in the Lake of Fire, the very wrath of God. **What do you need to do? You need to repent and accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.]**

[Watch out for the deception – Be careful, there are many in our world who would say, “Oh, you’re all right! You know the gospel, you know about Jesus, you believe all those stories. You don’t have anything to worry about.” The Bible declares,]

[James 2:19 *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.]*

[There is a lot more to salvation than just mere intellectual assent. You must receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. John wrote,]

[John 1:12-13 **But as many as received him,** *to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*¹³ *Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.]*

[The point here is simple, **is there continuing, excused, desired sin in your life?** The evidence of your sinful lifestyle reveals where you truly stand with the Lord Jesus Christ.]

[Is Christ In You?]

C. **The Regard Of Godly Examination – Discernment (1 John 3.9-10)** [– Now you must make a choice. Whose are you, and whose will you be? **To which spiritual family does your life reveal that you belong?** There are two spiritual families revealed in verses 9-10 and your membership is revealed through the evidences of your life. There is,]

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2. The Rebuke of sin
3. The Regard of Sin

1. **The Divine Family (vs 9-10; Matt 7.15-20)** [– “*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*”¹⁰ **In this the children of God are manifest, . . .**” - Notice what must be the most compelling phrase concerning sin contained within Scripture. As a born again Christian, with the presence of Almighty God dwelling within you, **you will not find it in yourself to tolerate sin in your life for long.** Because the God who lives within you will not tolerate that sin in you, and He will drive you away from that sin with all of heaven’s resources. This is reminiscent of what our Lord said, when He said,]

Matt 7.15

[**Matthew 7:15-20** *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.* ¹⁶ *Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?* ¹⁷ **Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.** ¹⁸ **A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.** ¹⁹ *Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.* ²⁰ *Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*]

2. **The Devils Family (vs 10)** [– “. . . **and the children of the devil:** *whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.*” – On the other hand if you find sin comfortable, enjoyable, and desirable in your life, then you need to hear God and recognize the loud testimony of your life and character. You cannot love God, be God’s, and love sin in your life.

The love of sin in your life reveals who you are, and whose you are. You need to be saved today!]

[Consider your Life and the evidences of your life and ask yourself,]

- [Which family is my family?]
- [What does my life reveal?]
- [What do my actions declare?]
- [What is my spiritual reality?]
- [What do I need to do? What will I do?]

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B. The Reality of Godly Exposure

1. The Removal of sin
2. The Rebuke of sin
3. The Regard of Sin

C. The Regard of Godly Examination – Two Families revealed,

1. The Divine Family
2. The Devil's Family