

Jesus Came to Destroy the Works of Satan

December 10, 2023 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

What are the works of Satan?

How has Jesus destroyed Satan's works?

1 John 3:1-10

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. 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.

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

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: How are things going getting ready for Christmas? Has anyone tried something new to help prepare their hearts to worship Jesus during this Advent season?

Read: 1 John 3:1-10

Discuss:

1. In verse 1, John tells us that being able to “be called children of God” should help us understand “what kind of love the Father has given to us.” How would you describe what being able to be called children of God reveals about the love of the Father for us? How do you typically react to this truth?
2. Also in verse 10 John says “the reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” What does it mean that “the world does not know us”? How have you observed this happening? Why would John want us to know this reason for why the world does not know us?
3. How should looking forward to what John describes in verse 2 affect us now? Although we don’t yet know everything about what the resurrected Christ is like (or what we will be like), what *do* we know?
4. From verses 3-10, what are all the characteristics mentioned of those who *are* children of God? From these same verses, what are all the characteristics indicated of someone who is *not* a child of God? What lesson is there for us in John’s warnings here? What do you see in this passage that would allow a Christian who sins reason to still hope in his or her salvation?
5. Based on what you see in this passage, as well as elsewhere in Scripture, in what ways would you say Jesus has “destroy[ed] the works of the devil” (v. 8)? What are some ways that the work of the devil has *not yet* been destroyed? How can understanding the victory that Jesus has secured in His coming help us fight against temptation now?
6. In verse 10, John makes clear that along with practicing righteousness, one mark of being a child of God is to love your “brother.” Why is loving other believers an essential trait of those who claim to love Jesus? (See also 1 John 3:15, 17.) If we struggle in this area, what can we learn from this passage that might fuel in us a genuine love for our Christian brothers and sisters?

Apply: What can you do in your Advent celebration to honor the fact that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil?

Pray: Ask God to cause us to walk joyful as children of God, confident in Jesus’ victory over Satan.