

“We Shall Be Like Him!”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. If you're an **orphan** living in a *3rd world country*, what is better than getting adopted into Brad & Angelina's wealthy home? Uhh, adopted into God's family!!!
- B. Overview: Main point - **Deliberate sin is a serious thing!**
1. **Deliberate sin grieves the Father** who loves you & has a wonderful future planned for you (1-3).
 2. **Deliberate sin grieves the Savior** who died for you & delivered you from the power of Satan (4-8).
 3. **Deliberate sin grieves the Holy Spirit** who lives in you & gave you new birth (9-15).
- C. Outline: *5 things* - **Love; Likeness; Loyalty; Living Rightly; Loving brothers.**

II. **WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM!**

- A. **LOVE!** (1)
- B. **Behold** - Lit. *of what country!* John's saying I don't even know *what country* this love is from!
- C. **Here is love**...we've been adopted into God's family. **We're now called God's kids!**
- D. This privilege (our adoption) is a direct **gift** of our heavenly Father.
1. **Why?** It springs from His **love!**
- E. (1b) **The world does not know us** - **of course not**, our possession of *a divine life* is altogether hidden from the one who doesn't possess this experience.
- F. **LIKENESS!** (2)
- G. We see this gift of adoption is really the giving of *the gift of Himself* we shall be like Him
1. This verse celebrates the accomplishment of God's eternal purpose concerning man!!! This purpose found its expression way back in Gen.1:26 **“Let Us make man in Our image, after Our Likeness.”**
 2. He declares his intention of bringing into existence beings like Himself, as like Himself as it is possible for creatures to be like their Creator. (Boice)

- H. In grade school my teacher used to say, “*put on your thinking caps*”! - Let’s put on our *dreaming caps*!
1. It is almost beyond our comprehension to think of anything higher than our present privilege of being children of God.
 2. The difference between the present & future is one of *degree rather than kind*.
 3. It will consist in our future **condition** rather than any change of **position**!
 - a) **Illustration**: When you go through an International adoption in a 3rd world country, the paper work takes place in that country. There the child becomes **yours!** By now bringing the child home (to the U.S.) their **condition** changes, but not their **position**. They can’t become *more* a part of your family...**they are family!**
 - (1) But look at the difference of going from 3rd world, to 1st world **living!**
 4. Now compare 1st world living to 1st Heaven living?
 - a) We shall be like Him... glory & all! - See Col.3:4,5.
 - b) “We shall see Christ, & be like Him, & the sight will transform us into His **image & likeness**” (Griffith Thomas; John; pg.286)
 5. **Illustration**: A missionary was occupied w/the assistance of a native teacher in translating 1st John into the language of the people among whom he was working. When he came to these words, “we shall be like Him,” the scribe laid down his pen, & said, “No, I cannot write these words; it is too much; let us write, “we shall kiss his feet.” But, as Dr. Barrett says in narrating this incident, “It is not too much for **the love of God!**”
- I. **LOYALTY!** (3)
- J. **Sonship** must of necessity have a *practical result...Purity!*
- K. Everyone that possesses this **hope** fixed on **seeing & being like Christ** hereafter will necessarily purify himself here & now.
- L. **How pure?** - Just as He is pure.
- M. **LIVING RIGHTLY!** (4-9)
- N. **Whoever commits sin**(and continues to commit sin) is displayed in *the tense* (pres act part)
 1. **Whoever continues to practice sin habitually in their life...**
- O. **Lawlessness** - *meaning* opposition to all legal requirement, & in this, the denial of all moral obligation.
- P. (5) Here is another reason why sin cannot be admitted into the Christian life **Christ was manifested(appeared) to take away our sins**.
1. In Jn.1:29 Jesus came to “**take away the sin of the world**”(the **root** of sin); **here** Jesus came to “**take away our sins**”(the **fruit** of sin).

- Q. (7) God Himself is righteous, & those who receive His life *necessarily* manifest the same feature!
- R. (8) 2nd reason Jesus came...He also came to **destroy the works of the devil**.
1. This is one of the aspects of sin that needs constant attention.
 2. To commit wrong is not merely to break a Divine law, but to deny the entire purpose of Christ's coming.
 - a) If Christ was about **destroying the works of the devil**, what are you doing **rebuilding** the works of the devil by sinning?
- S. (4,6,9) **Does not sin** - we know what it doesn't mean (see 1:8)
1. John is saying *practicing* sin is no part of the Christians experience; & if anyone indulges this practice, it is clear proof that he has not seen Christ nor had a personal or permanent experience of Him.
 2. **He cannot go on living in sin**.
 - a) The assert that a man who is truly *born of God* can at the same time *live in sin*, is ludicrous, as some false teachers were propagating in John's time.
 3. It's not that believers have to "give up things". The Lord just took the "want to" out of our lives! **I can do this & that if I want to,...but I don't want to anymore! :)**
- T. **LOVING BROTHERS/SISTERS!** (10-15)
- U. (10) Wow what an *awful contrast* between **children of God** & **children of the devil**.
1. **How about a category "C"?** Nope.
 2. **These were even our Masters words**, "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do" (Jn.8:44)
 3. Paul says to Elymas, **"you son of the devil."**
- V. The radical distinction between these 2 groups consists in **2 great facts**: **doing righteousness** & **loving your brother**.
1. The 1st test is towards **God**; The 2nd test is towards **man**.
- W. **Children of the devil** are easy to spot, for they act like their father; **in the same way it should be easy to identify the Children of God** for they practice the righteousness of their Father!
- X. (11,12) Why is he raising **Cain** here?
1. Cain has been rightly called a **"loveless soul"**. The main issue here is **motive**.
 2. **It was the absence of love in Cain's character & conduct that led to his action.**
 3. He becomes the essence of **lovelessness & hatefulness**.

- Y. (14,15) We have passed from death to life - You have a **new nature** & a **new Father**; **therefore**, you should live a **new life**!
1. John sharply contrasts 2 realm's, there's not even a possibility of a third, or even a borderline. **It's child of God or devil; it's death or life; it's hate or love.**
- Z. **John's bottom line**...If you are to be like Christ hereafter, **then** we must act like Him now!