

- Order of Service -

Call to Worship

Welcoming Prayer

- 242, I sing the mighty power of God
- 238, Praise the Lord, ye heavens adore Him
- 11, Praise to the Lord the Almighty
- Be exalted O God

Announcements and Prayer requests

Greeting

Message in the Word -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #9

Where are you looking? It makes a world of difference!

1 John 3:4-6

Sending prayer

Calendar:

October 15, Womens' dinner at Cassie Johnson's

October 30, Church service and day at Harstone

You may notice we don't pass an offering plate

We invite you to participate in the ministry, and the offering box in the foyer is for your gifts and offerings for the Lord's work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, Galatians 6:6 -

Grace Bible Fellowship

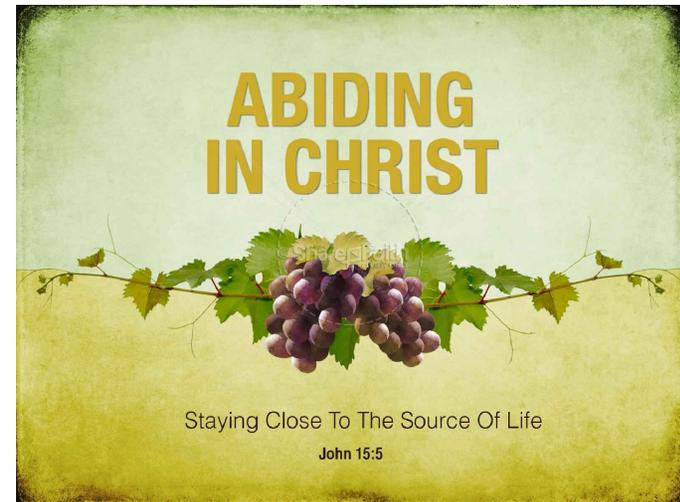
642 Ellen Lynn, Redwood Valley, CA 95470

(707) 485-7713 www.GraceBibleRedwoodValley.org



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- Teaching -

Eric Peterman

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #9

Where are you looking? It makes a world of difference!

1 John 3:4-6

- October 2nd, 2022 -

John's call to Grow in Fellowship with God - #9

Where are you looking? It makes a world of difference!

1 John 3:4-6

In 2:28-3:3 John sets the believer's sight on the imminent and greatly anticipated Blessed Hope, the coming and appearance of our Christ in the rapture of His dear saints to be face to face with Him our Savior! John does this to help the believer rest and regulate their thoughts and behavior in the assurance of salvation and the joy and excitement of anticipated eternal rewards from Christ's hand. In 3:4-10 John now shines the light on the first coming of the Son, in the incarnation. Jesus' intention in coming in the flesh is squarely in focus here. So John places us in an art gallery with just two paintings, between two opposing portraits of Christ, two great icons: The **hope** of the appearing for us in the rapture on one side, and the **power** of the appearing for us in the Son taking on flesh. The design of the gallery is to get us to so admire the Person in the portrait that we want to abide in that spot, to be riveted by their beauty. Abiding there is John's design for us. So let us admire these grand masterpieces from the hand of the divine artist!



2:28-3:3 – A quick review of the portrait on our right, the Blessed Hope. It should produce great anticipation (dominating the future hopes and dreams of the believer and setting all things in this life in their proper perspective). We know where we're going, we know what we shall be, and we know to Whom we are going! **All wonderful reasons to abide in Him, who loves us, and so to purify ourselves from sins, bearing spiritual fruit as a result of gazing at and abiding in Him.**

Now, to the portrait on the left

3:4, John points out for the believer a cautionary tale. This is for them to actively avoid the worldly skew of the false teachers and their cultivation of the flesh: **The very nature of sin itself.** Sin is lawlessness! *Anomia.* (without law, anarchy) Lawlessness is *defection* from the upright standard of the God of truth. It is *refusal* of external authority or internal self-regulation of a well informed conscience. It is *rebellion* against the inherent authority of the Creator, the Almighty, and His nature as holy and pure.



- See 2 Thessalonians 2:1-10 for the ultimate Lawless One – *Anomia*.

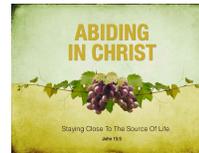
It started with Satan, it infected the pair in Eden, it ruins us, and ultimately it'll be destroyed by the wrath of God! *Believer: The practice of sin is lawlessness. It is what unbelievers are. Believers are not to be!*

V5, The Son of God appeared the first time, when he came in the flesh (the incarnation), in order to break the power and authority of *sin* as the reigning principle from our father Adam, so that sins and sinning would not run their inevitable course of eternal death and destruction, and so that Life and righteousness (goodness, for goodness sake!) would be the reigning principle in those who believe in Him for forgiveness and Life.



The only One who could do this was, as to His humanity, the Last Adam (not guilty of Adam's sin, not of his seed, being born by the Spirit in the Virgin), and God, with the capacity to bear the weight of all our sins, away forever.

So John asks his readers: if one is Abiding in That One (in whom there is no sin principle at all but only goodness), would sin be the reigning principle of one's life? Must one give in to the deadly pulls of the *world, the flesh and the Devil*? If such exotic love were given as a gift to us, that we be called the children of God, is it too much to ask of us that we His children play and relish and enjoy and abide in the garden where both the Gift and the Giver are central features?



V6, Is it possible, when one is enraptured with the sight and joy of the Giver and relishing the Gift (when one is actively Abiding in Christ), is it possible at the very same time to be sinning? Can one be of two minds at once? No! When we abide, simply and whole-heartedly in Jesus, when our love and focus and trust are on Him and His delights, in that garden we cannot sin, we do not sin.



Sadly we find that we, in our present state, cannot maintain that attitude perfectly, and when our hearts and minds are distracted and strained, we sometimes do pull away or are pulled away, and then we fall into sin. But when we look again, when we remember what we have seen and know by experience. We look once again to Christ. In love and fear, we abide, and our sinning is put away from us. What a Savior!