

December 11, 2022  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
1 John 3:4-10

**“Moral Test #2: ‘The Proof is in the Practice’ – Part 1”  
OR: ‘Appearances Are Not Deceiving’**

- I. Prologue [Introduction] – 1:1-4
- II. Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #1 – 1:5-2:27 – Moral; Social; Doctrinal tests
- III. Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #2 – 2:28-4:6**
  - A. The Moral Test – 2:28-3:10 – Family Resemblance**
    - 1. Family Resemblance in Light of the Future Coming of Christ (2:28-3:3)**
      - a. Regeneration (2:28-29)**
      - b. Adoption (3:1-3)**
    - 2. Family Resemblance in Light of the First Coming of Christ (3:4-10) – Sanctification**

**So what?**

## Discussion & Application:

1. Reflect upon the 21 reasons given last Sunday (12/04/22) on why Jesus came the first time (see updated sermon notes on the church app for details). What are some practical ways you could make your family, neighbors, friends, and co-workers aware of these biblical truths?
2. 1 John 3:4-10 uses extreme words like “**everyone**,” “**no one**,” “**cannot sin**,” etc. What is John’s point in using this language? Is John saying that true Christians never sin? How would this apply to the false teachers (pre-Gnostics) who were trying to deceive the church members? What difference does the word “**practices**” make in your understanding of the passage?
3. Some people believe that Christians can reach a place of **sinless perfection** in this life (often based on passages like this one). What other passages might they use to support their position? What biblical passages would you use to show them that Christians still sin, but they aren’t characterized by sin?
4. John says that “**sin is lawlessness**” (v. 4). What are some other biblical definitions for sin? Give references (i.e., 1 John 5:17). What is the relationship between sin and the law of God? (see Rom. 3:20; 4:15; 7:7) What would you say to someone who thinks their sin is actually just a “weakness,” “character problem,” “disorder,” “genetic abnormality,” etc.? What other excuses are being offered today for sin? If a person keeps using those excuses, what hope is there that they will change? What will God ultimately do to lawless people? (See Mt. 7:21-23; 13:40-42; 23:28; 2 Cor. 6:14-15)
5. How does admitting that sin is rebellion against God’s law give us **hope** that we can change? How does the Gospel specifically apply to overcoming sin as a habitual practice? (See Rom. 4:7-8; 6:15-23; Tit. 2:11-14; Heb. 8:12; 10:17)
6. John likes the word “**abide(s)**.” What does it mean to abide in Christ? How specifically does abiding in Christ keep us from habitually sinning? (See Ezek. 36:25-27)
7. If someone claims to know Jesus and says they are absolutely sure they are going to heaven, but they have a lifestyle of habitual sin, what would (should) you tell them? What Scripture would you use?
8. Some people believe Jesus came to be a great moral teacher, godly example, etc. What does 1 John 3:5 say about why Jesus came? What does it mean to “**take away sins**”? Compare Lev. 16:1-10; Is. 53; John 1:29.
9. John also says about Jesus that “**in Him there is no sin.**” Why did John say that? What implications do the two statements about Jesus in verse 5 (His mission and His nature) have on the moral purity of the believer? How do our **beliefs** about Jesus impact our **behavior**?
10. Christmas is about Jesus. **Do you truly know Jesus?** Do you understand WHO He is and WHY He came? Have you been born again and adopted into His forever family? Does your moral lifestyle reveal an obvious family resemblance?
11. If you have not yet turned from sin and put your trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, please do that right now. Admit that you are a guilty sinner. Thank Jesus for paying for your sins on the cross and rising from the dead to prove the payment was accepted. Confess publicly that Jesus is your Lord and Savior. Get baptized and join a local church where you can grow and serve. If you have questions about becoming a Christian or knowing for sure that you are a Christian, please speak to a church leader or call the church office (818-776-1500). We would love to help.
12. **Memorize 1 John 3:4-6.** Spend time daily thanking Jesus that He came to take away sin.