

# Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

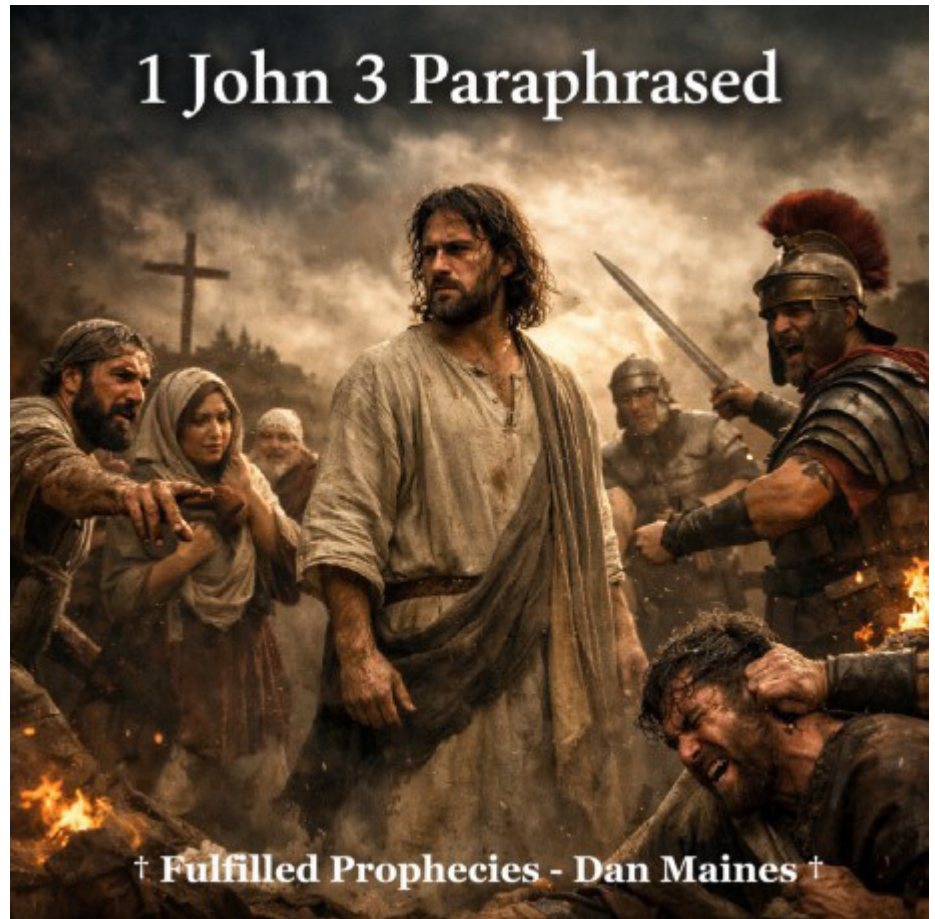
&gt;

[Other](#)

&gt;

[Share on Facebook](#)[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

## 1 John 3 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## 1 John 3 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† This chapter explains what it means to truly be God's children. John contrasts two families, the children of God and the children of the devil. The issue isn't religious labels, it's how a person's life reflects the truth of Christ.

† John writes to believers who were being confused by false teachers. These teachers claimed spiritual knowledge but

denied the seriousness of sin and the importance of love. John corrects that deception by pointing to the evidence of real faith.

† The chapter also reinforces the covenant reality that believers already belong to God. The world doesn't recognize this because it didn't recognize Christ either (John 1:10).

## **1 John 3:1**

Look at the kind of love the Father has given us, that we are called God's children, and that's exactly what we are. The reason the world doesn't recognize us is because it didn't recognize Him.

† John begins by emphasizing identity. Believers aren't hoping to become God's children someday, they already are His children. This is the result of God's love through Christ (John 1:12).

† The world rejecting believers is nothing new. Jesus said the world hated Him first, so His followers shouldn't be surprised when the same rejection happens to them (John 15:18-19).

† This relationship with God was promised long before the New Covenant was fully revealed. God said He would be a Father to His people and they would be His sons and daughters (2 Corinthians 6:18).

## **1 John 3:2**

Beloved, right now we are God's children, and what we'll be hasn't been fully revealed yet. But we know that when He appears, we'll be like Him, because we'll see Him as He is.

† John reminds believers that their identity is already secure. The transformation into Christ's likeness is the result of seeing

Him clearly and knowing Him fully (2 Corinthians 3:18).

† The idea of becoming like Christ isn't about becoming divine beings, it's about reflecting His righteousness and life. The gospel restores what was lost in Adam (Romans 8:29).

† The early church understood this as the restoration of humanity through Christ. Irenaeus wrote that Christ became what we are so that we might be restored to what God intended.

### **1 John 3:3**

Everyone who has this hope in Him keeps purifying himself just as He is pure.

† Hope isn't passive. When someone truly believes in Christ, that hope motivates them to pursue righteousness. Faith produces a changed life (James 2:17).

† Purification refers to moral and spiritual cleansing. This happens through walking in the truth and turning away from sin (1 John 1:7).

† Jesus Himself said that the pure in heart will see God, connecting purity with fellowship and understanding (Matthew 5:8).

### **1 John 3:4**

Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness, sin is lawlessness.

† John defines sin clearly. Sin isn't just a mistake or weakness, it's rebellion against God's law and authority (Romans 3:23).

† Lawlessness was already spreading in the first century through false teaching. Some claimed sin didn't matter if a

person had spiritual knowledge (2 Peter 2:1).

† John rejects that idea entirely. True knowledge of God always results in obedience (1 John 2:3-4).

### **1 John 3:5**

You know that He appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin.

† The mission of Christ was to remove sin, not excuse it. His sacrifice cleanses believers and restores them to fellowship with God (John 1:29).

† Jesus was uniquely qualified to do this because He was completely sinless. His life fulfilled the law perfectly (Hebrews 4:15).

† Early Christian writers such as Clement of Alexandria emphasized that Christ's sinlessness was essential for redemption.

### **1 John 3:6**

No one who remains in Him continues living in sin. No one who keeps living in sin has truly seen Him or known Him.

† John isn't claiming believers never struggle with sin. He's describing a lifestyle pattern. Someone who truly knows Christ doesn't live comfortably in ongoing rebellion (1 John 1:8-9).

† Abiding in Christ means remaining connected to Him through truth and obedience (John 15:4-5).

† When a person's life shows continual rejection of God's commands, it reveals they haven't truly known Him.

## **1 John 3:7**

Children, don't let anyone deceive you. The one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

† John warns believers about deception. False teachers often claim righteousness without living righteously.

† True righteousness isn't just talk, it's demonstrated through obedience and love (Matthew 7:16).

† The early church repeatedly warned against teachers who separated belief from moral behavior, including Ignatius and Polycarp.

## **1 John 3:8**

The one who practices sin belongs to the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

† Sin originated with rebellion against God, first seen in the devil's opposition to God's authority (John 8:44).

† Christ's work destroys the power of sin and deception. His death and resurrection broke the hold of the enemy over humanity (Hebrews 2:14).

† The destruction of the devil's works includes exposing lies and restoring truth.

## **1 John 3:9**

No one born from God lives in continual sin, because God's seed remains in him, and he can't keep living in sin because he's been born from God.

† God's seed refers to the life and truth implanted through the gospel (James 1:18).

† Being born from God changes a person's nature. The new life created through Christ opposes the old patterns of sin (2 Corinthians 5:17).

† This transformation shows the difference between external religion and genuine spiritual rebirth.

### **1 John 3:10**

This is how the children of God and the children of the devil are made obvious. Anyone who doesn't practice righteousness isn't from God, and neither is the one who doesn't love his brother.

† John summarizes the distinction clearly. The evidence of belonging to God is righteousness and love.

† Love for fellow believers is a defining mark of the Christian community (John 13:35).

† Hatred and division reveal the opposite spirit.

### **1 John 3:11**

This is the message you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

† Love was central to Jesus' teaching and repeated throughout the early church (John 13:34).

† The command wasn't new information, it was the original message of the gospel.

† Genuine love reflects God's own character (1 John 4:8).

## **1 John 3:12**

We shouldn't be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his deeds were evil and his brother's were righteous.

† Cain represents the pattern of hatred toward righteousness (Genesis 4:8).

† The same hostility continued in the world toward God's people (Matthew 23:35).

† John's point is that hatred reveals the same spirit that drove Cain.

## **1 John 3:13**

Brothers and sisters, don't be surprised if the world hates you.

† Jesus warned His followers about this reality ahead of time (John 15:18).

† The conflict between righteousness and sin has existed since the beginning.

† The persecution of believers throughout history confirms this truth.

## **1 John 3:14**

We know we've passed from death into life because we love the brothers and sisters. Anyone who doesn't love remains in death.

† Love becomes evidence that spiritual life has already begun.

† The transition from death to life reflects the transformation brought by the gospel (Ephesians 2:1-5).

† Without love, the claim of faith is empty.

### **1 John 3:15**

Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him.

† Jesus connected hatred with murder at the heart level (Matthew 5:21-22).

† John expands that principle to show that hatred reveals the absence of God's life.

† Eternal life produces a different spirit toward others.

### **1 John 3:16**

This is how we know love, that He laid down His life for us, and we should lay down our lives for the brothers.

† Christ's sacrifice defines what real love looks like (John 15:13).

† Love involves self-sacrifice and concern for others.

† Early Christians were known for this kind of sacrificial care within their communities.

### **1 John 3:17**

If someone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need but shuts his heart against him, how can God's love remain in him?

† Love must move beyond words to action (James 2:15-17).

† The early church practiced generosity and shared resources with those in need (Acts 2:44-45).

† Compassion reflects the heart of Christ.

### **1 John 3:18**

Children, let's not love with words or speech only, but with actions and truth.

† John emphasizes authenticity. Real love demonstrates itself through consistent behavior.

† The truth of the gospel transforms how believers treat one another.

† Love becomes visible evidence of faith.

### **1 John 3:19**

By this we'll know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before Him.

† Love gives believers confidence that their faith is genuine.

† The conscience finds peace when actions match the truth of the gospel.

† Assurance comes from living in the truth.

### **1 John 3:20**

Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and He knows everything.

† God understands the full reality of a believer's life and intentions.

† His knowledge and grace exceed our self-condemnation.

† This verse offers comfort when believers struggle with guilt or doubt.

### **1 John 3:21**

Beloved, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence before God.

† Confidence in prayer grows when a person walks in obedience.

† Fellowship with God strengthens assurance.

† This confidence isn't arrogance, it's trust in God's promises.

### **1 John 3:22**

Whatever we ask we receive from Him because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him.

† Prayer aligned with God's will reflects a life of obedience.

† Jesus taught that abiding in Him affects the effectiveness of prayer (John 15:7).

† The focus isn't getting anything we want, it's asking in harmony with God's purposes.

### **1 John 3:23**

This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another just as He commanded us.

† Faith and love summarize the core commands of the New Covenant.

† Believing in Christ involves trusting His authority and message.

† Love demonstrates that belief in practical ways.

## **1 John 3:24**

The one who keeps His commandments remains in Him, and He in that person. And we know He remains in us by the Spirit He has given us.

† Obedience and fellowship are closely connected.

† The Spirit confirms God's presence in believers.

† This relationship fulfills the promises of the New Covenant (Ezekiel 36:27).

## **Historical References**

† Irenaeus wrote that the transformation of believers into God's children reveals the restoration accomplished through Christ.

† Clement of Alexandria emphasized that love and righteousness demonstrate the reality of faith.

† Tertullian described Christian communities as being recognized by their love for one another.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† Believers today still face the same challenge John addressed, living out genuine faith in a world that often rejects it.

† The evidence of belonging to Christ isn't religious labels, it's a life shaped by righteousness and love.

† When believers live this way, the difference between truth and deception becomes clear.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** If believers are God's children now, why doesn't the world recognize it?

**A** Because the world didn't recognize Christ either. The same rejection continues today (John 1:10, John 15:18).

**Q** Does this chapter teach that Christians never sin?

**A** No. It teaches that believers don't live in continual, unrepentant sin. When they fail, they confess and turn back to God (1 John 1:8-9).

**Q** How does John define real love?

**A** Real love is shown through sacrifice and action, following the example of Christ giving His life (1 John 3:16, John 15:13).

**Q** What shows the difference between God's children and the devil's children?

**A** Practicing righteousness and loving others reveals God's family, while persistent sin and hatred reveal the opposite (1 John 3:10).

**Q** How can believers have confidence before God?

**A** By walking in obedience, loving others, and trusting in Christ, which aligns their hearts with God's truth (1 John 3:21-23).

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

## Source Index

- † 1 John 3
- † Irenaeus, Against Heresies
- † Clement of Alexandria, Stromata
- † Tertullian, Apology

Share on Facebook

## Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

---

**You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.**