

FIRST JOHN 3:1-7

In the opening verses of the third chapter, John reminds his readers who they are and whom they're to be like. Though we shouldn't be surprised by either of these revelations, they're worth some close scrutiny.



¹ How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

How did John describe his readers?

Think on that minute. How important is it to you to recognize the truth of who you are?

Why don't people in the world perceive our identity?

Who will we be like when Jesus returns and in what way?

Knowing this, how should we be now?

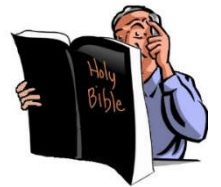
⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that He appeared so that He might take away our sins. And in Him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen Him or known Him. ⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous.

What law is broken when we sin?

Notice that John says no one who "lives in" Jesus "keeps on sinning." Seeing as how he said in chapter one that anyone who says he hasn't sinned is a liar, how can this be?

Points to Ponder

Based upon what John says about Jesus when He returns, does anyone really know what Jesus is like now?



What does John mean by saying that those who continue to sin haven't seen Jesus or known Him?

If the Old Law – along with the 10 commandments - has been done away with, why be concerned about breaking any of them?