

Hope in Christ Begets Moral Purity

Study Outline – Grace Bible Chapel
1st John Study - emphasis on 1st John 3:1-3
Sunday – July 13th, 2025

CONTEXT: After a section addressing the importance of abiding in Christ as a distinctive means of knowing our relationship to Him is real, we now turn to the practice of hope. Of the three components that mark Christianity, faith, hope, and love (1 Cor. 13:13) this section more specifically focuses on how hope actively produces a changed life. The Christian has their hope focused on the promises of God. Those promises are ultimately realized in the coming of the Lord Jesus. He therefore is the focus of the Christian's hope. That hope has as its fulfillment in the glorification promised at His coming for His church. And that hope is practically and consistently seen in the Christian by their current lifestyle. John uses the term, "everyone" to make the distinction that all who have true Christian hope, "purifies himself, just as He is pure." This pursuit of biblical holiness therefore becomes one of John's distinctive marks of true Christianity. This teaching on sanctification is often neglected by much of the professing church, but not by the Scriptures.

Broad outline of the book of 1st John (underlined portion is the immediate context)

- I. The Reality of the Person of Christ (1:1-4)
- II. The Reality of Fellowship with Christ (1:5-2:29)
 - A. The Conditions for Fellowship (1st John 1:5-2:29)
 - B. The Characteristics of Fellowship (1st John 3:1-3:24)
 - 1. Practicing Moral Excellence (1st John 3:1-10)

Key Words or phrases

- appeared or appears (2)
- everyone
- hope
- fixed on Him
- pure or purifies (2)

Introduction:

- 1. Practicing Moral Excellence (3:1-10)
 - a. Our Possession (3:1-2)
 - Actual position (3:1a)

- Assured coming (3:2)

- b. Our Preparation (3:3)
 - All inclusive (3:3a)

- Attention on Him (3:3)

- Actions affected (3:3b)

Closing: