

Manifestation of the Children of God: Part 1 (2:28–3:3)

Water of Life

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REVIEW OF 1 JOHN 1:1–2:27

NEW EXPOSITION:

Thematic Statement: Boldness at the Bēma Requires Abiding in Him (2:28)

Arrangement of the Body of the Epistle:

Theme Announced (2:28)

Body (2:29–4:16)

Theme Realized (4:17-19)

The Manifestation of the Children of God (2:29–3:10a)

**Only children of God do righteousness, based upon the fact that Christ is righteous
(but humanity is not righteous) (2:29)**

Most interpreters of this verse (e.g., most preachers) commit a simple error of logic:

All dogs are mammals, but not all mammals are dogs.

All men are humans, but not all humans are men.

All who do righteousness are believers, but not all believers do righteousness.

Yet, most interpreters treat this verse as if it said:

All believers do righteousness, so those not doing righteousness are unbelievers.

Does this verse affirm that **all believers** do righteousness? _____

Does this verse affirm that **only believers** do righteousness? _____

God bestowed such a great love upon us [apostles and upon you readers] that we [apostles and you readers should be called children of God] (3:1a)

The words “and we are” in 3:1a, though true, are not part of the Majority Text.

Based upon [the fact that the apostles and the readers are God’s children] the world does not recognize the readers [as God’s children], because it did not recognize Jesus Christ [as God’s Son] (3:1b)

Is it easier to recognize a sinless one as God’s Son?

Or is it easier to recognize sinful believers as God’s children?

Since the world did not recognize Him, how could they recognize us?

We apostles [& you readers] are God’s children, but what we [apostles and you readers] shall be [in glorified bodies] has not yet been made manifest (3:2a)

We [apostles & you readers] know that we [apostles & you readers] will be like He is [NOW] when He is made manifest, because [apostles & you readers] shall see Him [THEN] as He is [NOW] (3:2b)

Manifest (*phaneroō* or *phaneros*) are key words of this section

2²⁸ And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He is **manifest**, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

3² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been **manifested** what we shall be, but we know that when He is **manifested**, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

3⁵ And you know that He was **manifested** to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

3⁸ He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was **manifested**, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

3¹⁰ In this the children of God and the children of the devil are **manifest**: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor *is* he who does not love his brother.

Every one possessing the expectation [of being made like Jesus is NOW, based on His promise] is thereby purified, just as He is pure (3:3)

What does he mean by purifies himself?

A person taking a shower is said to have cleansed himself/herself.

However, was it not the soap and water that did the cleansing?

Similarly, our belief in Christ results in us being cleansed, but it is Christ who does the cleansing (cf. 1 John 1:7)

CONCLUSION