**1 John 2:28-3:10a – Sin is never a part of my fellowship with God**

**Who do people see? Bruce Banner? The Hulk? Or Both?**

**Context: The goal of John writing is fellowship. John has just taught us that God is light, but will allow sinful people to fellowship with Him, based on the sacrifice of Christ.**

**John then emphasizes the importance of obedience and four dangers we all face: 1) The World 2) our Flesh 3) Satan and 4) False teachers. We can be delivered from them by abiding in Christ and clinging to His Word and prayer.**

**Now, John turns to our future judgment and encourages abiding in Christ so that our new natures, which is like our Father’s nature, will be manifested (Key word).**

**2:28 – Abiding brings confidence, carnality brings shame at His coming**

* **If we abide in Christ, we will have confidence when He returns**
* **If we don’t abide, we will “shrink away in shame”**
* **So, for us to be confident, the righteous God should be manifested through us from what Paul calls our “inward man”, our new natures (Rom. 7:22).**

**2:29 – Only children of God do righteousness, just like their Father**

* **This section begins and ends with manifesting outwardly our inner person.**
* **It starts in v. 29 with recognizing that God is righteous.**
* **If you know He is +R, you’ll recognize it when you see it in people.**
* **John is not saying that those who do not live righteously are unsaved.**
* **The issue: True righteousness can only come from inner righteousness.**
* **When one reproduces God’s righteous nature, he manifests that nature and it can be perceived of as born of Him.**
* **Righteousness as defined by John is believing in Christ and loving one another (3:23). It’s not simply humanistic affection.**
* **Jesus taught that, by this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. One who abides is a disciple (Jn. 15:1-8).**
* **The unfortunate translation by some that involves “practicing” righteousness waters down John’s point. Thirty-nine translations chose to simply translate it, rather than add that nuance and interpretation.**

**3:1 – His love brings new birth, new nature, and a new family**

* **The reality of the new birth should cause us to reflect on God’s great love for us. We are the “born ones” of our heavenly Father, His children.**
* **As such, we have His righteous nature within us, our true inner selves.**
* **However, since you are distinctive by your new birth and are His children, the world doesn’t know you. After all, it didn’t know Him.**

**3:2-3 – Thank God Almighty, free at last!**

**When we set our hope on His coming, it causes us to lead pure lives, exactly like His character (1:7). Simply living improved moral lives misses the point.**

**3:4 – Sin is wicked, evil, and contrary to the “real me.”**

**3:5-6 – The end of sin!**

* **So, what happens when I abide or stay close to Him (v. 5)? I don’t sin!**
* **When I do sin, it’s because I don’t see Him for who He is or know Him for who He is. Sin never comes from a true vision or a true knowledge of God.**

**3:7-8 – Who am I connected to?**

* **If I “plug into” Jesus (maintain fellowship with Him or abide in Him), I produce righteousness. If I “plug into” Satanic thinking, I produce sin.**
* **Peter’s example is instructive**
  + **His mindset is crucial and the issue here is fellowship, not relationship**
  + **In Rom. 8:1-11 our mindset is fundamental to walking in the Spirit.**
  + **Paul’s walking in the Spirit is John’s abide in Christ.**
  + **Peter became an “Adversary” (“Satan”) to Jesus and offended Him.**
  + **Who are we connecting to?**

**3:9 – Righteousness comes from our new self**

* **New Nature - Jn. 1:11-13; Rom. 7:20-22; 2 Cor. 4:16; Eph. 3:16; Jas. 1:17-20**
* **The Greek construction here looks at a person from one aspect; their born-again self; Bruce Banner! That part is sinless and never gets worse.**
* **The reasons for the inability to sin is that “God’s seed remains (abides) in us” and further it “cannot sin, because it’s been born of God.”**
* **God is sinless and so is the NN created by Him and in which He lives.**

**3:10a – Abide! Manifestation of the new nature makes things clear**

* **When we “plug into” God, we make things clear.**
* **When unbelievers sin, they make things clear,**
* **BUT, when believers sin, things are not clear; abide in Christ -OR-**
* **He could mean we are “children”, not in the sense of who we belong to, but who we are following or “in fellowship” with - (Mt. 16:23; also 1 Pet. 3:6; Jas. 3:13-16; Heb. 2:13).**