

## DIVISION

Children of God, humanity is divided. It is divided by race and national and tribal boundaries, it is divided by blood and soil, and even by economic and social classes. There are rich and the poor, white collar and blue collar. We are divided by age and cultures and religions and by gender and skin color. These divisions are not all necessarily bad. Some, if not most of these divisions are quite natural and good.

The communists and Marxists of the world today, want to sow strife among these divisions, in order to make us at war with each other. We are told there is a war between blacks and whites, men and women, rich and poor, gays and straights. Identity politics, as it is called, seeks to divide humanity into classes of people who they label as oppressed and those who are oppressors.

And the way to create equity and justice in this world of identity politics, they tell us, is to reverse the roles and to make the oppressed the new oppressors, and to try and eliminate certain distinctions between peoples. Now, this actually creates more enmity and strife and war between people, and this is by design.

We need to be wise to the tactics of the Devil. This is a classic divide and conquer strategy. If the devil can get people to not unite but to be divided against one another, then he can win. He tries to get us to believe that the main division in the world is between race or gender or sexuality or economic and social status.

But this serves to blind us to the real division, which is, that out of the many divisions that exist in humanity, the two main divisions are actually between two families who descend from two fathers. **We have the Children of God and the Children of the Devil.**

The history of this rivalry between the two seeds is demonstrated in the early chapters of Genesis. After Adam and Eve sinned, God told the

Serpent that he would put enmity between the Seed of the Woman and the Seed of the Serpent. The seed of the woman would Crush the head of the Seed of the Serpent, but he would bruise his heel.

We see this enmity immediately afterwards when the older brother Cain, killed his younger brother Abel, because Cain's deeds were evil and Abel's were righteous. The conflict continues, as the older brother Esau forsakes his covenantal birthright and then persecutes the younger brother Jacob who desired it. We see it happen again when Joseph's older brothers, jealous that he was having dreams that he would rule over his brothers, plotted to kill him, but then instead sold him into slavery. As the nation of Israel continues to grow we see that within the Covenant people of God there are those of Israel who are not truly of Israel. There are Jews who are not true Jews, but Jews in name only, and they are those who persecute the prophets.

When the Lord Jesus comes, the Jews are still internally divided, and Jesus, the true Seed of the Woman, the Son of God, accuses the Jews of being the children of the Devil in John 8. The division and hostility between the two seeds is shown to be within the same national family. This tells us that the division between the children of God and the children of the Devil is therefore primarily spiritual and not physical.

But the Jews wanted to boast primarily in their ethnic calling as the children of the God, being children of Abraham. But Jesus creates in himself one new man, such that the division between humanity is no longer primarily between Jews and Gentiles, as the Jews thought. Rather, he makes it quite clear that the division is about faithfulness to God by believing in Jesus. Thus, those who are of the same faith of Abraham are Abraham's true seed.

Whether a person is a Jew or a Gentile does not matter. The old divisions are gone. All that matters is whether a person has faith in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, when Paul says that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile – he is saying that there are no **racial barriers** keeping a person away from salvation. In saying there is neither Circumcision nor Uncircumcision, he is saying that the **old covenant identity markers** no longer mark out who is God’s people and who is not. In saying there no Barbarian or Scythian, he is saying that there were **no cultural divisions** that keep people away from Christ. In saying there is neither slave nor free, he is saying there are no longer any **social barriers** that can keep a person from salvation in Christ. In saying there is neither male nor female, there are **no gender barriers** that exist which keep people away from salvation in Christ.

Any barriers which divide people as being “in or out,” those distinctions and divisions do not exist anymore *when we talk about who are the children of God*. All are one in Christ, because Christ is one, and he is in all.

Now, in saying that there are no divisions in Christ, this does not mean that there are no more divisions in the world at all. Clearly there are. There still are Jews and Gentiles, there still are male and female, there still is slave and free. Natural, racial, sexual, tribal, linguistic, national idiosyncrasies and identities still survive and continue in the world after Pentecost. Grace does not exterminate Nature, but rather glorifies it. But in Christ, none of these things create or perpetuate differences in *spiritual status between these people*. We are all equally sinners, and we all are equally saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

For Jesus Christ “*was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God, and they shall reign on the earth*” (Rev. 5:9-10).

Now, since the primary division of humanity is along spiritual and not physical lines, what are those things that characterize both of these groups so that we can recognize who is who?

## CHARACTERISTICS

The first thing we can take notice of is the fact that the children of God practice righteousness, and the children of the Devil practice sin and lawlessness. John says in 2:29 - *you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.* (that is born of God).

And in 3:9 he says - *No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.*

And concerning the children of the devil he says - <sup>8</sup>*Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning.*

And again - <sup>10</sup>*By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.*

So it is clear that those who are children of God, are those who practice righteousness and do not make a practice of sinning. Those who are born of God bear a resemblance to their Father. They are righteous, as He is righteous. John also says that those who are the children of God purify themselves as Christ is pure. And this purification comes from the hope that we will see Christ as he is when he appears at the end.

And it is equally clear who are children of the devil; they have not been born of God, they do not have God's seed or spirit, and so they practice sin and lawlessness.

*Now Jesus Christ appeared to take away sins, and in him, there is no sin. We are in Him, and therefore, we should have no sin. Thus John says, "No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or knows him."*

Now, this may seem obvious, but John is writing to a people that this is not obvious to. In fact, they were being deceived. So he says, *"Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever makes a practice of righteousness is righteous, and he is righteous. Whoever makes a practices of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has*

*been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”*

Let me say first of all that there are Christians who do not seek to live righteous lives. They are not purifying themselves as He is pure. They are not living as though the Spirit of God dwells in them or that they are going to see him when comes on that day in power and great glory.

I am not talking about the occasional sins here and there. I'm talking about the Christian who has major sins, but maybe tries to keep it under wraps. He does not actually try to repent. He just tries to cover it up. You see that person? They love their sin more than they love Christ. These types of people might just be children of the devil.

Check yourselves, children of God. For many have deceived themselves and have said I have been born of God, I have been baptized. I have attended church my whole life. I come from a Christian family, I have heard the Bible. And yet, they still aren't truly born again. And you will know if you are born again by whether love your sin and make excuses for it and justify it more than you seek to kill your sin and keep God's commands.

When Jesus abides in a person, and a person abides in Jesus, truly, there is a warfare that exists within the Christian. Because Jesus is making you into a Holy Temple for the Holy Spirit to dwell in, and so he digs around in the darkest corners of your hearts and cleans out your closets, and when he finds vermin sins scurrying around your heart like disease infested rodents living in the dark deep recesses of your heart and mind, Christ destroys it. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Not just the devil out there in some abstract ethereal hypothetical realm. He came to destroy the devil's works most especially in you, in the children of God. Is Jesus destroying the Devil's works in you? What sins are you still holding on to? What is the secret thing that you don't want anyone to know about? Or, what is that sin that everyone knows about and you don't even

care. You flaunt it. You need to be killing sin, or sin will be killing you. Jesus kills sin in you as you purify yourself as He is pure. This is one way to know that you are a child of God, and not of the Devil.

Now, we also need to know how this all plays out in our broader society. All through our land, in our governments and businesses, we are told that we cannot and should not discriminate. We are told that we need to be inclusive and accepting of people of every and any kind. We are told that we need to have diversity, which means - *the inclusion of individuals representing more than one national origin, color, religion, socioeconomic stratum, sexual orientation, etc.*

Now, while we can and we should be kind to everyone, this definition blurs lines of all distinction that come from natural and spiritual affections whatsoever, so that it becomes illegal for Christians to discriminate rightly against sin.

We are told that in order to be truly diverse and accepting, we must not maintain any of our distinctions, we must abandon all those things which make us a unique people, and we must instead reject our moral heritage of righteousness, and we must celebrate all manners of sin and perversity and other foolish laws that will break down the peace and cohesion of our society. Well, that is a problem.

Now, when we are called out for saying this is a problem, of course the world says we are unloving. It calls us all sorts of names. It says we are homophobes, it calls us racists, it says we are anti-semitic, or we are xenophobes, that is a fear or hatred of the stranger. It does not matter if their charges against us are untrue, what matters is that they get us to think that our standards of morality and righteousness are oppressive and unloving and hurt people, so that we would drop our standards and embrace their standards.

Now, why is this relevant? Because John says that the children of God love their brothers. And the children of the Devil hate their brothers.

*“For this is the message that we have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”* And the world says, yes you must love everyone else, except your brother. Except those closest to you. You must love and embrace and be accepting of everyone else except your brother.

So, in order to love everyone you must do what? Drop your standards of morality and righteousness, you must not act like a child of God, you must let go of your natural and spiritual allegiances, and you must embrace and support sin and lawlessness and those things which would endanger the people closest to you. In order to be really loving, you must essentially become a child of the Devil, and embrace sin and lawlessness. That is what they are saying.

Thus John continues and says, *“We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brothers were righteous.”*

So why did Cain kill Abel? It was because Abel was righteous, and Cain was not. Peter Leithart notices the subtle psychology that John is using here. He says: “when we are in the presence of a genuinely righteous person, we feel condemned. They don’t have to say or do anything to condemn us; we just feel condemned. To justify ourselves, to relieve ourselves of the condemnation we feel, we attack them and hate them. If we can make someone less righteous by slandering them or finding some chink in their armor, we can let ourselves off the hook. Worse, we might try to eliminate them, either literally killing them or figuratively murdering them by excluding them.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Peter Leithart, From Behind the Veil: pg. 115

Cain could not tolerate being in the presence of righteous Abel whose very life was a reminder of Cain's own sin and wickedness, and so he killed him. This is called "projection." And it is a very powerful technique. *Projection refers to unconsciously taking unwanted emotions or traits you don't like about yourself and attributing them to someone else.*<sup>2</sup>

Like when the Leftists call people on the right Racists, when in fact the Left has always been the biggest racists on the planet. Or when Christians are called bigots and intolerant, which really means they are bigots and are intolerant. This tactic is at the core of today's national discourse.

The world is trying to silence Christians by saying we are evil and we are filled with hate, but this is all projection. The reality is that like Cain, their deeds are evil and Christians' deeds are righteous. But to justify themselves they call us names and try to exclude us from the public square. Now why do the guilty and unrighteous murder? Because guilt demands satisfaction. And when the children of the devil are gripped with guilt they look for someone to slaughter.

Jesus and the apostles faced the same thing from the Jews. In John 8 the Jews say to Jesus, "Are we not right to say you have a demon?" Well it's obvious that they are the ones who have demons. But they project that on to Jesus to get the pressure off of them and on to Jesus, and then to justify their persecution of him. And soon after they pick up stones to throw at him, proving they are filled with demons.

When John says, "Do not be surprised brothers that the world hates you", this is the same world that he talks about in 3:1 - "the reason why the world does not know us is because it does not know him." This is a reference to John's gospel chapter 1 when John says, "He was in the world, and the world was made through

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/projection>

*him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.”*

Just as the Jews did not know Jesus and did not receive him, but persecuted him, like Cain did to Abel, like Esau did to Jacob, like the older brothers did to Joseph, so too does the world of the Jews persecute Christians. That is what John is talking about. The Jews are those older brothers of the Christians, like Cain who are persecuting Abel.

And John is trying to keep Christians from defecting and going back to Judaism, so he is giving them lessons about what it means to be a child of God, and to actually act like a brother.

And what are brothers supposed to do? Brothers are to love their brothers. Brothers are to lay down their lives for their brothers. Brothers, who have the worlds goods, and who see their brothers in need, they are to open their hearts toward their brothers, and help them in deed and in truth.

That is what brothers are supposed to do. This is how we know that the love of God abides in us, this is how we know we have passed out of death and into life – this is how we know we are children of God – because we love the brothers.

But who are those who are children of the devil? They are false brothers. They murder their brothers. Their deeds are evil, and so they hate their brothers. Everyone who hates their brother is a murderer, and no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. The devil was a murderer from the beginning. The children of the devil have the worlds goods and close their hearts towards their brothers and do not help in deed and in truth, rather, **they love in word or talk.**

And this last point is important. John says that the children of God do not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. Thus intimating that the children of the devil do a lot of talking to try and convince people that what they are doing is loving. But a tree is known by its fruits.

The Jews during the first century were trying to persuade the Christians to be circumcised, trying to persuade the Christians to embrace Gnosticism, the Jews argued and fought and lied and used their words to oppose the conversion of Gentiles to Christ. These same Jews are like the older brothers, like Cain, who murdered the Christ, and who were murdering Christians, and yet, use their words to tell the world how they are loving and Christians are the enemy of mankind.

It is still the same way today children of God. The world hates us, they project their hatred on to us and say that we hate. They see that we have real love for the brothers, and they call us and racist and homophobe and xenophobe and all kinds of names to get us to feel bad about holding to biblical and godly morals and principles, because they don't. Jesus said that this would happen.

He said, *"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."* (Matt. 5:11) We hold to righteousness, and so the world hates us.

But John then warns us about our hearts condemning us. We already saw how it is that the children of the devil condemn them, and how they deal with that problem, they persecute the children of God. But the children of God can also suffer from their hearts condemning them as well.

He says: <sup>19</sup>*By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him;* <sup>20</sup>*for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.* <sup>21</sup>*Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;*

We should ask - Why would our hearts condemn us? Well, if we have been listening to the word and talk and the projections of the world, instead of

listening to the truth of God, then our hearts could very well condemn us. But it would condemn us falsely.

If we do not judge ourselves rightly, and instead listen to them, and their shallow words, then they will achieve their goal – which is to demoralize us and to get our hearts to condemn us. If we believe their lies, and we begin to think that we are evil just as they tell us we are, then we have believed the lies of the children of the devil.

And this is exactly what is happening with all the woke Christians out there. They are not reassuring their hearts before God, by examining the fact that they are keeping God's commands and doing what pleases him. They are not reassuring their hearts before God because they believe in Jesus Christ. No!

Their hearts condemn them because they are listening to the lies of the murderous communists and they are letting their words penetrate their hearts and so they begin to agree with their Marxists lies. And they do begin to have white guilt. And they do begin to perpetuate the narrative of systemic racism which the devil is using to redraw the lines of divisions between white and black and make that that center issue, instead of the lines between the children of God and the children of the devil, as Jesus would have us draw them.

If he can get the Christians to break the unity that we should have in Christ, despite the color of our skin or the differences in genders, and if he can get us to fight against ourselves instead of against him, then the battle is much easier for him to win. Do you see that?

Do not fall for the subtle tactics of the devil, children of God. Do not listen to their lies which tell us that we are evil white supremacists and racists who need to repent of our racism and whiteness. Do not listen to them when they call us homophobic, or anti-semitic or islamophobic or Nazi, because you love your country and want to see God's righteousness take root here

once again. Do not listen to them when they call you a bigot because you have Christian standards and morals.

And certainly do not listen to them when they use soft and inclusive words that make people feel warm and fuzzy on the inside. It is these same words they used when the communists slaughtered almost 100 million people in the name of equality, and unity and brotherhood. These are the Devil's words, and he is using them to destroy the church and our nation.

Stop caring about what the children of the devil say about you. Reassure your hearts before God by believing the truth. Keep his commandments – believe in Jesus Christ, love the brothers in deed and in truth. Destroy the works of the Devil within you. And you will abide in God, and he in you. And if you do this, you will confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. For it is by these things that we know who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil. This is how the Son of God destroys the works of the Devil. Amen.