

## 1 John: The Signs of Life

## 1:1-2:2 Summary ("Fellowship")

- 1:1-4, Objective: Fellowship
- 1:5-2:2, Obstacle: Sin

## 2:3-5:12, Exposition ("Know")

## 2:3-28, First Panel

- :3-6, Righteousness
- :7-17, Love
- :18-28, Belief

## 2:29-4:6, Second Panel

- 2:29-3:10, Righteousness
- 3:11-24, Love
- 4:1-6, Belief

## 4:7-5:12, Third Panel

- 4:7-5:1, Love and Belief
- 5:2-5, Love, Righteousness, and Belief
- 5:6-12, Witnesses to Love, Righteousness, and Belief

## 5:13-22, Closing Summary and Exhortation

## The Second Panel of Signs

## Things to Look For

- Can a person be righteous without being born again? Why or why not?
- In what two ways does the manifestation of the Lord Jesus promote our righteousness?
- How does Christ's manifestation contrast with other spiritual movements of the first century?
- How can we become more like the Lord Jesus?
- What does the plural "sins" in 3:5 suggest about the Lord's work in us?

# Standards of Righteousness

2:29-3:10, Righteousness

2:29-3:1, The Father **Defines** Righteousness

- Righteousness = family resemblance

(3:1 the **world** knoweth us not)

3:2-6, The Son **Manifests** Righteousness

- Our Example & Redeemer
- Past, present, future

3:7-10, The Devil **Opposes** Righteousness

- Sin = family resemblance

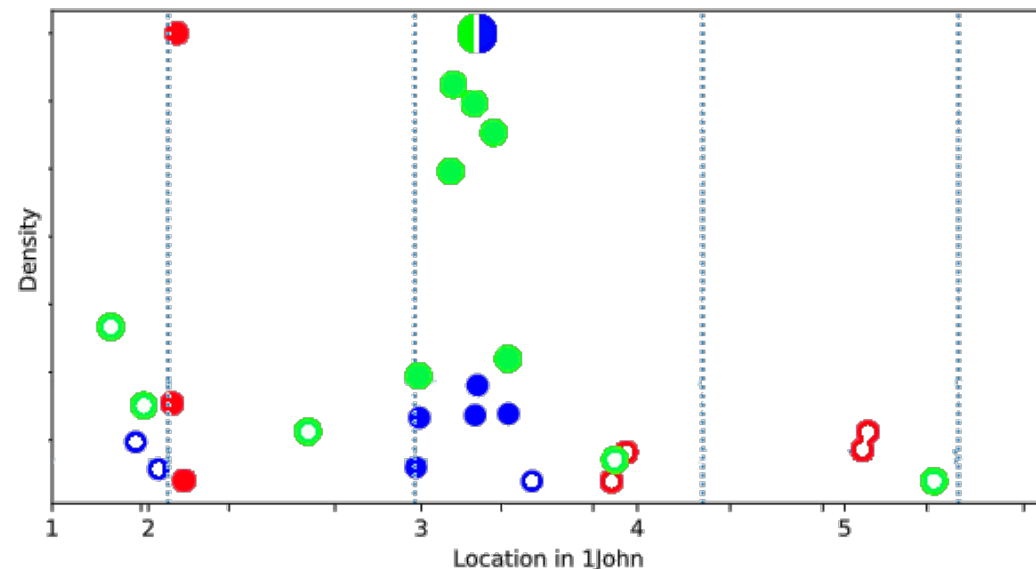
(3:9 **whoever is born of God** doth not commit sin)

## Imputed Righteousness

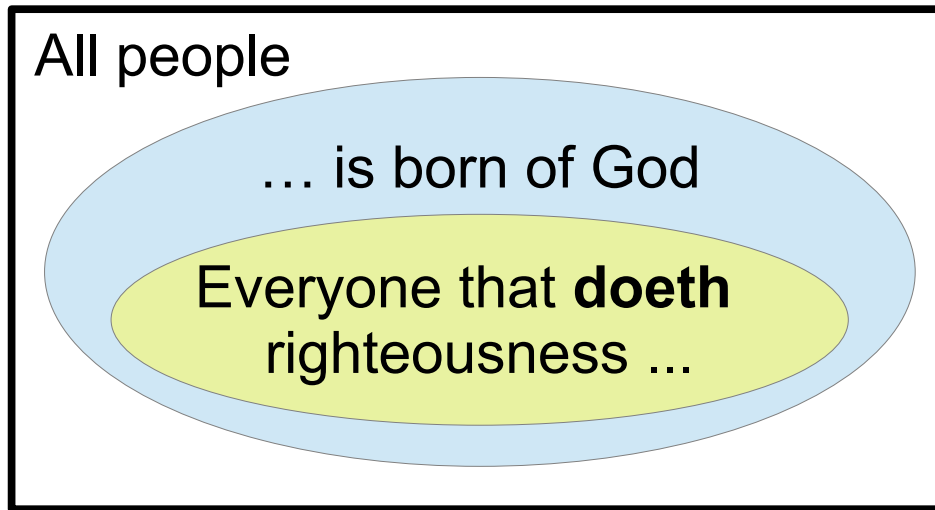
2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the **righteousness** of God in him.

## Practical Righteousness

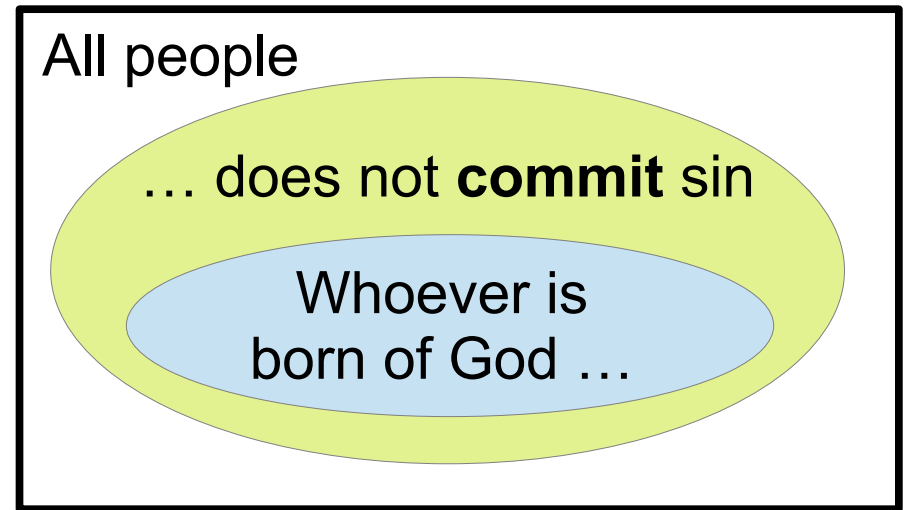
Ezk 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and **do them**.



# Practical Righteousness and the New Birth



2:29 ... every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.



3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; ...

## What is True Righteousness?

Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; ...

Php 3:6 touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

## 3:1, Love and Hatred

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his **love** toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Jhn 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world **hateth** you.

Isaiah 64:6

6But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousneses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away

How did Isaiah view the “righteous” deeds of the people, which they might have used to argue that they deserved God’s favor in these verses?



# 3:2-6, The Son Manifests Righteousness

Past

Present

Future

3:2a Beloved, now are we the sons of God

3:2b and it doth not yet **appear** what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall **appear**, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

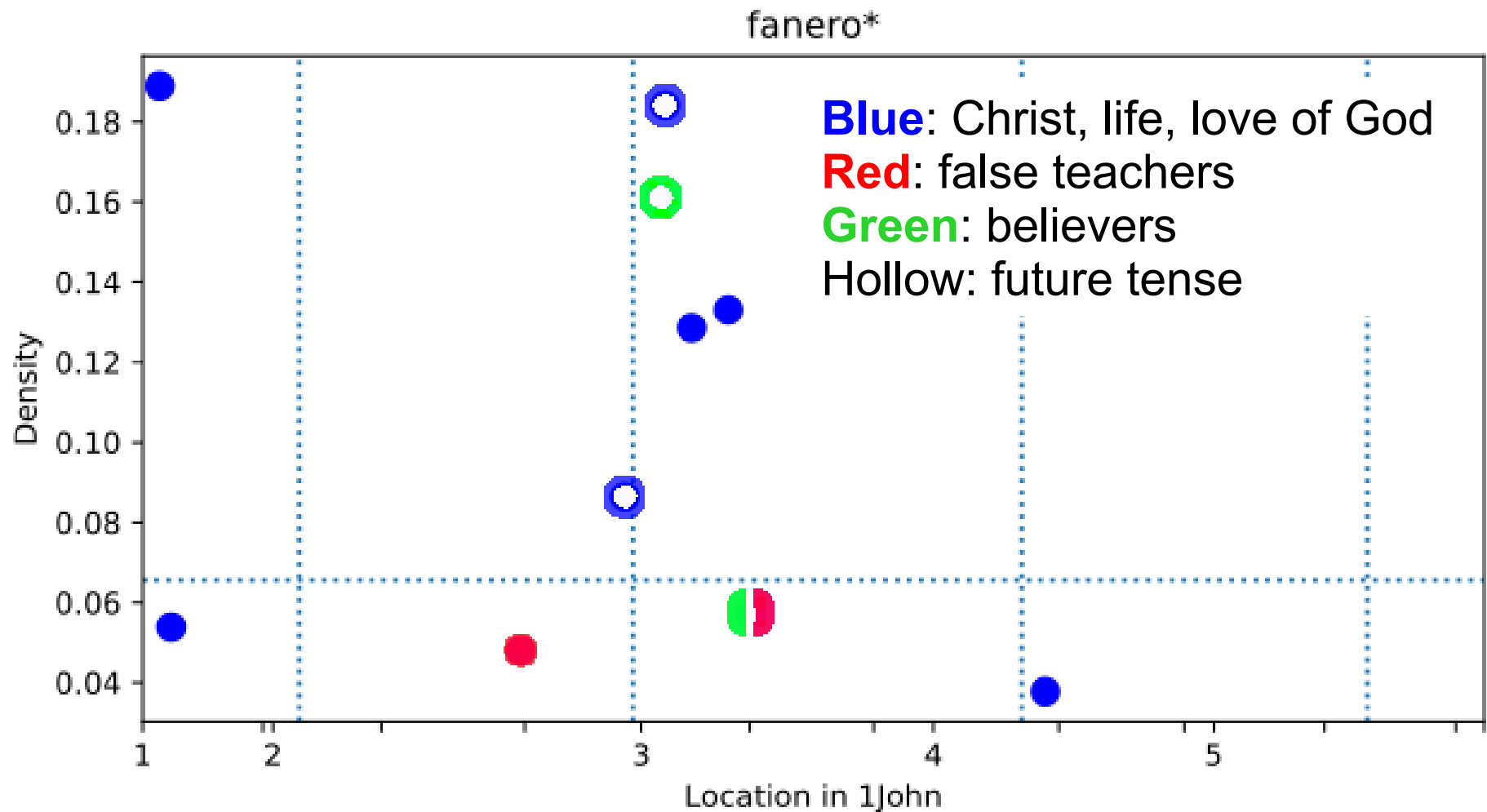
3:4 Whosoever committeth **sin** transgresseth also the law: for **sin** is the transgression of the law.

3:5a And ye know that he was **manifested** to take away our **sins**;

3:5b and in him is no **sin**. 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him **sinneth** not: whosoever **sinneth** hath not seen him, neither known him.

(1Jn 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall **appear**, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.)

# Appear, Manifest (φανερῶ *faneroō* G5319; φανερός *faneros* G5318)



Acts 26:26 ... this  
thing was **not**  
**done in a corner**

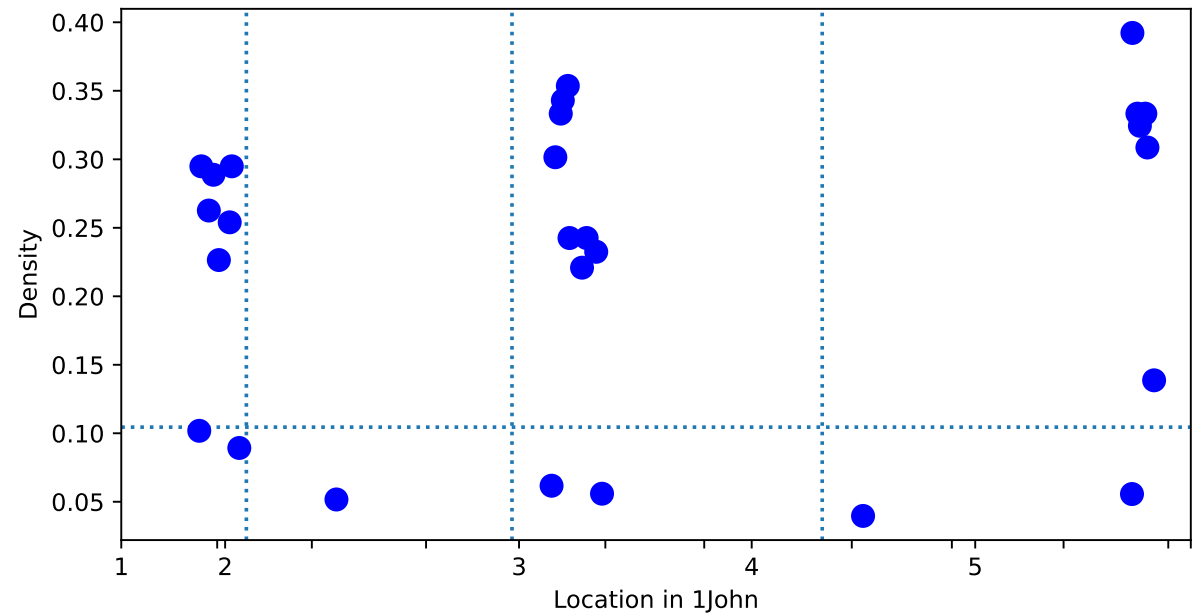
Jhn 18:20 Jesus answered him, I spake **openly** to the  
world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the  
temple, whither the Jews always resort; and **in secret**  
**have I said nothing.**

# The Son Manifests Righteousness

**we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is**

2Co 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding **as in a glass** the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

1Co 13:12 For now **we see through a glass, darkly**; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.



Sin (noun ἁμαρτία *hamartia* G266; verb ἁμαρτάνω *hamartanō* G264) in 1 John

## 1 John 1: Christ delivers from sin

1Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1Jn 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

# Sin and the Manifestation of Christ

**3:4 sin is the transgression of the law  
[lawlessness]**

1Jn 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin.

**3:5 manifested to take away our sins**

Ezk 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you,  
and cause you to walk in my statutes, and  
ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Matt 1:21 thou shalt call his name JESUS:  
for he shall save his people from their sins.

**and in him is no sin**

Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered to  
bear the sins of many; and unto them that  
look for him shall he appear the second  
time without sin unto salvation.