

Text: 1 John 3:4-10

Title: "Lawless vs. Righteous"

Theme: You can tell a lot about a person spiritually by the way they live their life.

### **1 John 3:4-10**

**4** Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. **5** You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. **6** No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. **7** Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; **8** the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. **9** No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. **10** By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

#### OUTLINE:

- I. Lawless - (vs. 4-6)**
- II. Righteous - (vs. 7-9)**
- III. Obvious - (vs. 10)**

#### **Personal Application**

1. Spend time throughout the week in prayer, expressing your gratitude to God for delivering you from a lifestyle of lawlessness and giving you the freedom to live a life of righteousness.

#### **Small Group Discussion**

1. Discuss what sin and lawlessness (without or disregarding law) are, and give examples from your own life. Then, read Exodus 20:1-17 (Ten Commandments) and discuss how breaking God's Law is sin and lawlessness.
2. Discuss how faith and works tie together, both for Christians and non-Christians. Then, read James 2:14-26 and discuss how someone's lifestyle is a strong indicator of their relationship to the one and only true God ... or the devil.
3. Read 1 John 3:10. Discuss how it is "obvious" whether a person is God's child or the devil's child. Then, discuss what it means to practice righteousness and to love others.