

1 John 3:1-7^{iv}

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin commits lawlessness, for sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who remains in him sins; no one who sins has seen him or known him. Children, let no one deceive you. The person who acts in righteousness is righteous, just as he is righteous.

^{iv} About the Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

Today's reading takes up the theme of Christians and sin, in the context of their adoption as "children of God" (v. 1). This special relationship to God was formerly extended to Israel as a people and especially to the king as Israel's representative. In Hebrew idiom, "to be the child of" meant to exhibit the characteristics of one's father. Christians are truly God's children now, yet they are still in the process of growing into resemblance to God by imitating Christ in their behavior.