

## Children of God

1 John 2:28-3:10

**MPS** Children of God live to consume their life with more of Jesus, so more Jesus comes through their life.

**OBJ** Every person can understand how to cultivate Christlikeness in life as God's children by Four Reminders.

### READ 1 John 2:28-3:10

*And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. <sup>29</sup>If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.*

**3**See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup>Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup>Whoever makes a practice 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. <sup>9</sup>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. <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. **1 John 2:28-3:10**

**INTRO** Children are like their parents. This is not a statement that needs justification. Personally, I always enjoyed watching other people's children act like their parents. It gave me a moment of reprieve from experiencing my own emulate me. I always wanted to go up to parents whose children were throwing a fit in the store and tell them, "Please don't worry. It's okay. Everyone is enjoying this moment, knowing it is your child and not their own." I don't know if that would be a comfort or not; probably not. And it is inevitable that, at some point, every parent is brought to their knees in wondering, "**Why does my child excel at all my worst traits and ignore my best ones?**" Parenting, even more than marriage, is a great sanctified, showing you your sin that still needs to be dealt with!

But today's sermon is not on parenting. Rather, today's sermon is on being a child. And after last week's message on antichrists, the natural question for us to consider is this, "**In a world where many antichrists exist, how are children of God to live?**" **Is this not the question of every age for Christians? How do children of God act like His children in a world of the Evil One?**

**Children of God live to consume their life with more of Jesus, so more Jesus comes through their life.**

**OBJ** Four reminders for God's children to cultivate His righteousness in life and in our living.

### READ 2:28-29

*And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. <sup>29</sup>If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.*

John begins by continuing his strong encouragement to abide in Christ. Just as our series title is "Fellowship", the very heart of fellowship with God is abiding in Christ. This is why John continues to repeat the theme of "abide" for us. And here he reminds us of what abiding in Christ produces in us, which becomes our first encouragement.

**1. The more you abide with Him, the more courage and confidence holds you to remain with Him. .28-29**  
Abiding in Christ that brings courage to our heart in approaching His throne also produces confidence for His appearing.



What Christ invites and calls us to every day is our preparation for The Day of His return. Few Christians would say, “I don’t look forward to Christ’s return.” But John tells us that the one who fails to abide will shrink back when He returns, because they will not be accustomed to His presence. We first saw this with Adam and Eve. When Adam and Eve spent time listening to the serpent, it made them hide when God came and called their name. The one who skips their practice of prayer and abiding now will be the one who shrinks back at his coming. The one who has learned to “*draw near to the throne of grace with confidence*”(Hebrews 4:16) will be the one who has great confidence at his coming.

**ILLUS** Consider how people treat royalty or famous people. For many reasons, they keep a distance. But even if it is a king, children run up to them without hesitation. **Why?** Because even the title and position of “royalty” is still a lesser role than Daddy or Momma!

John is not saying this to condemn a weak practice of prayer, but to encourage us to strengthen it daily and regularly. And not only for the great blessing that it produces in our life each day, but also for the great benefit we will find that it produces on The Day of His Return!

**How we abide in Christ now determines our preparedness for His appearing.** How well we know God now will determine how we respond to His coming. And our increasing knowledge of relationship gained from abiding in Him strengthens our understanding to recognize those who are truly His now as well. Knowing He is righteous, as John states, reveals for us those who truly follow Him, because those who follow Him practice His righteousness. And in a world where so many antichrists are active, abiding produces a clarity for us that is limitless in its blessing to us. **The more we abide with Him, the more courage and confidence holds us to remain with Him.**

**TRANS** Next, John celebrates a further benefit from abiding in Christ.

*<sup>3</sup>See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*

John wants every believer to recognize the great gift that God has given to us in His love! This love is not merely delivered to us but has a tremendous effect upon us; we are made God’s children. We are CALLED God’s children because we ARE MADE God’s children! What a glorious four words, “*and so we are.*” The reason the world doesn’t recognize us is because they did not know Him. As he told us, those who know those who are God’s are those who know He is God and practice righteousness. It takes one to know one. **The reason you know who His children are is because you know who He is!**

John restates this to begin the next verse, “*Beloved, we are God’s children now,*”. He is leading every believer to bask in this truth as the defining reality of your life, because of what it produces! While abiding prepares us for His return by building a strong relationship with him now, it also produces something much greater.

## **2. The more you abide to know Him, the more you become like Him. .1-3**

What we become prepared for by abiding is not yet fully known. But what IS clear and certain is that we become like Him. We are made God’s children now so that we will be made like Him then! The righteousness we practice now is preparing us for what we will be perfected in then. While I know what I am not now, I do know whose I am. And because of whose I am I know that I will be made like Him then. **Remember, Christian, you who are the beloved of God; you are loved by God to become like Him.**

This is the hope with which you purify yourself, Christian; not your performance, nor merit, nor accomplishment, but love! Love from God purifies us. The more we set our hope in Him, the more He pours out His love upon us, the more His love makes us like Him to perfect on the day of His coming.

**APPL** Christian, the focus of your gaze and the object of your hope will determine the substance and shape of your life. If you set your gaze and consume your hope with this world, you will be made after this world, and run from God. **When you**



set your gaze on Christ to consume your hope and abide in Him, you become like Him.

There are many motivators in life, but none greater than love. And of all the motivators in life, none can produce all that love will produce. [The more you abide to know Him, the more you become like Him.](#)

**TRANS** [Why is John's strong encouragement to bask in God's love so important?](#) Because with all the antichrists working in the world, its important to know who is with you, and who is not. John continues. **READ** 1 John 3:4-7

*<sup>4</sup>Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.*

[What does John mean by "sin is lawlessness"?](#) John states that sin is not law fulfilling, or righteousness. Jesus didn't come and die so you could remain in your sin. He came and died to deliver you from your sin. And as you abide in Him, you run away and stay away from sin.

### 3. [The more you act like Him, the more you see His righteousness in you.](#) .4-7

When you abide in Christ, you stop making excuses for your sin and start dealing with it. You stop merely talking about your sin and confess it to repent of it. When you abide in Christ, you treat your sin like your sin treated Him, you kill it, you put it away, and put it off(Colossians 3), so that it does not continue to entangle you. You cannot abide in Christ and continue to sin. No matter how many people you like, or even trust, tell you not to worry about it. No matter how many assessments tell you its just your personality, or your propensity, or your brokenness. It may be all those things, but more than any of that it is YOUR sin, and only YOU can deal with it. The more excuses you make, the more you hold to your sin so that you do not know Christ. To this, John says, "*Little children, let no one deceive you.*" He is saying; stop making excuses, stop entertaining sin-justifying rationales, and most importantly, stop tolerating your sin. Your sinful deeds of the past do not define you. But practicing righteousness by faith in obedience does identify you with Christ. How you live matters, because the one you act like determines the one you identify with to become like. [The more you act like Him, the more you see His righteousness in you.](#)

**TRANS** John then states what the one who continue in his sin reveals. **READ** 1 John 3:8-10

*<sup>8</sup>Whoever makes a practice 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. <sup>9</sup>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. <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.*

The One who makes a practice of sinning does so because he or she is of the devil. They continue in their sin because their life is fueled by the Evil One. But Christ came to destroy these works. When you trust to abide in Him, because of Him, you deal with your sin in the way your sin dealt with Him; [Jesus died for you so you could kill your sin.](#)

### 4. [The more you see His righteousness at work in you, the more you will see His nature alive through you.](#) .8-10

When you abide in Christ, His righteousness works in you, so you recognize and repent of your sin. This is the work of His righteousness purifying you from within. You do not continue in your sin because that is no longer who you are! You are His, a child of God, born again from above, so that you live your life by the One who is alive in you. This makes evident of your life so others can see Christ in you; His likeness in you by His righteousness shining through you. Because of God's love that fills you as you abide in Him, you are known as His child, even by the very life you live. [The more you see His righteousness at work in you, the more you will see His nature alive through you.](#)

[Children of God live to consume their life with more of Jesus, so more Jesus comes through their life.](#)

[What is consuming your life?](#) Wherever you abide most determines what consumes your life. God wants to fill you with His love to make you a completely different person, one who looks like His perfect Son, Jesus Christ.

