



Children of God? (1 John 2:28-3:10)

Many who believe God exists would say that all people are children of God. *But...is that TRUE?* Today we discover the difference between children of God and those who aren't.

teachingnotes

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* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible) unless otherwise noted.

Confidence When Jesus Appears?

1 John 2:28 So now, little children, remain in him so that **when he appears we may have confidence** and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

1) Jesus IS coming back one day. 2) We CAN have confidence when Jesus **appears** that, instead of cowering in fear as others will do, we will **not be ashamed before him at his coming**.

❓ What if you KNEW that Jesus was coming back in 24 hrs? Did you/will do anything about it? Christians should be living like Jesus is returning.

1 John 2:29 If you know that **He is righteous**, you know this as well: **Everyone who does what is right has been born of Him**.

Since the righteous one IS going to return, and since HE has made us righteous (right with God), we should do **what is right**, because we have **been born of him**. Since He gave His life for us, *obeying Jesus should be a PRIVILEGE not a PROBLEM*.

BIG TRUTH: Christians are expected to live in the purity that Jesus died to provide.

This is written by the apostle who, rather than name himself ONE TIME in his own gospel, calls himself "the disciple/one Jesus loved" (Jn 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20). John was blown away by the love of Jesus, and wants his audience to bask in God's love for them too!

1 John 3:1 See **what great love the Father has given us** that we should be **called God's children—and we are!** The reason the world does not know us is that it didn't know him.

The Scriptures declare that every person IS a creation of God, but not all people are children of God. John affirms this early on in his Gospel:

John 1:12-13 But to all who did receive him, **he gave them the right to be children of God**, to those who believe in his name, who were born, not of natural descent, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man, but of God.

Followers of Jesus have been adopted into God's family (Rom 8:15; Gal 4:5; Eph 1:5)! This isn't just a future hope; It's a current reality!

☛ **C.S Lewis** wrote a book called *the Screwtape Letters*, that the "ENEMY" (God) "**has a curious fantasy of making all these disgusting little human vermin into what He calls His "free" lovers and servants—"sons" is the word He uses...**"¹

Followers of Jesus are now SONS and DAUGHTERS! As wonderful as that is, there's a *FUTURE HOPE* that should fuel our faithfulness to God.

¹ Lewis, C. S. *The Screwtape Letters* (Enhanced Special Illustrated Edition) (p. 7). HarperCollins e-books. Kindle Edition.

Our Future Hope!

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, **we are God's children now**, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that **when He appears, we will be like Him** because we will see Him as He is.

We are God's children now, although there is a future inheritance that we await. We have not yet come into our full inheritance - *It's ours now, but we are just awaiting the right time* - the time when our bodies will be made new (never to die) & our souls will be transformed (with sin nature removed!), and...our eyes will be open to the fullness of how great our King really is!

Paul writes something similar, with a little more detail.

Philippians 3:20-21 Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. **He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body**, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself.

But the most important aspect of all this is...seeing Jesus for who He really is!

☀ Just before Jesus died, he gave Peter, James, and John a sneak peak at who He really was when *He was transfigured* (Matt 17:2, Mark 9:2). **When He appears**, we will KNOW JESUS and appreciate Him like never before!

❓ Do we REALLY believe that!?!?

1 John 3:3-5 And **everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself just as he is pure**. Everyone who commits sin practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. You know that **he was revealed so that he might take away sins**, and there is no sin in him.

The New Testament writers clearly claim that **there is no sin in Jesus**. So, the sinless One could take our sin on Him and make full payment. John once again reminds those bought at such a high price that *they can't continue to LIVE for the sin that Jesus came to DIE for*. Jesus came to **take away sins**, so anyone claiming to follow Jesus yet continuing to live in sin, is discounting and diluting the seriousness of sin and the graciousness of God best demonstrated at the cross.

1 John 3:6 **Everyone who remains in him does not sin**; everyone who sins has not seen him or known him.

Does this mean that true Christians will never sin again? NO. In fact, the context of this very writing teaches differently (go back and read chapter 1). John is contrasting the TRUE GOSPEL versus the FALSE GOSPEL that the wolves of his day and our day are teaching.

👉 **Everyone who remains in Him [Jesus] does not remain in sin.**

See how the ESV translates this (we will stay with the ESV for the last 5 verses).

1 John 3:6 (ESV) **No one who abides in him keeps on sinning**; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

Christians are expected to live in the purity that Jesus died to provide. *Anyone who teaches something different than Jesus and His apostles taught is a false teacher, a wolf, an antichrist* (see 1 Jn. 2:18-27).

1 John 3:7-10 (ESV) Little children, **let no one deceive you**. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. **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. **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**. 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.

How much clearer could John make it? This is John the apostle, who walked with Jesus, who was trained and sent out by Jesus, Himself!

Christians are expected to live in the purity that Jesus died to provide.

☀ NT Wright *"We are playing a different piece of music now, and even if our fingers slip sometimes and play some wrong notes, notes that belong to the music we used to play, that doesn't mean we are going back to play that old music for real once more."*²

📖 **What MUSIC are YOU playing? Do the notes you play and the lyrics you sing honor the One you call your King?**

FEET2FAITH

- **Lay sin at Jesus' feet.** Stop LIVING FOR the sin that Jesus died to PAY FOR. Tell Him, *"Jesus, I desire YOU more than the sin You died to pay for!"*
- **WARN those who claim Christ yet continue to LIVE IN SIN.** Go SHOW THEM these passages, written by this faithful follower and apostle of Jesus.
- **Elevate Jesus to His rightful 1st PLACE in our lives.** Before you read social media, a newspaper, or watch a video...how about you OPEN THE SCRIPTURES 1ST?

Christians are expected to live in the purity that Jesus died to provide.

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Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives:** Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (973-0047), Jere & Darlene Burnette (673-1888) , Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282) , Jim & Derita Pinkard (229-834-4307), or Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717).