

Sermon Notes 3/15/2026

Living as God's Children

How should we live as children of God?
¿Cómo deberíamos vivir como hijos de Dios?

1. Let's continue to live in _____.

Sigamos viviendo en _____.

1 John 2:28 (1 Juan 2:28)

1 John 2:6 (1 Juan 2:6)

1 John 3:6 (1 Juan 3:6)

John 15:4-5 (Juan 15:4-5)

2. Let's continue to live in _____.

Sigamos viviendo en _____.

1 John 3:3 (1 Juan 3:3)

1 John 3:8-9 (1 Juan 3:8-9)

Romans 5:5 (Romanos 5:5)

Hebrews 10:23 (Hebreos 10:23)

3. Let's continue to live in _____.

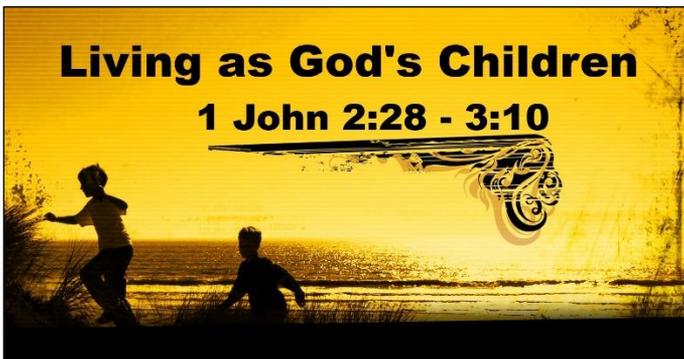
Sigamos viviendo en _____.

1 John 3:7 (1 Juan 3:7)

1 John 3:8-9 (1 Juan 3:8-9)

Matthew 7:15-20 (Mateo 7:15-20)

James 2:14-18 (Santiago 2:14-18)



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 6: March 15-22

Scripture: 1 John 2:28 – 3:10

Throughout the book of First John, the apostle gives us ways to evaluate our faith and develop confidence and assurance that we really are the children of God. In chapter 3, he tells us that it should be obvious that we are the children of God simply by the way that we live. The Greek text of this passage places a strong emphasis on continuous action. God wants us to maintain an ongoing Christian lifestyle. We all know that Christians are not perfect. However, there should be an obvious continuity in the way we live our lives. If we really are the children of God, then we will continue to see the character traits of God growing in our lives.

Read 1 John 2:28 – 3:10

1. Why did John encourage his readers to continue in Christ? (2:28)
2. According to verse 29, what do those who are born of God do?
3. How has the Father lavished His love on Christians? (3:1)

John writes about *agape* love more than any other New Testament writer. He uses the word 46 times in First John. This is the love Jesus commanded us to have for all people, even our enemies (Matt. 5:44). This is not an emotion that we feel. *Agape* love is a deliberate and selfless decision to value others and do what is best for them even when there is nothing in it for us. *Agape* love is the highest form of love. It is the kind of love that God had for us even when we were His enemies and constantly sinning against Him (Rom. 5:8). It is the reason Jesus was willing to go to the cross and die for our sins (John 3:16). In his comments on 1 John 3:1, Robert Yarbrough notes,

First John's use of the noun or the verb for love begins to peak in 1 John 3 (nine occurrences) and climaxes in 1 John 4 (twenty-seven occurrences). In 3:1 it is the wonder of this love that John underscores. He marvels at "what great" (*potapos*) love the Father has bestowed. The adjective appears on only six other occasions in the NT and only twice with the same connotation of greatness (Mark 13:1 [2x], describing the magnificence of the massive stones of the Jerusalem temple. John uses an unusual word to magnify an incomparable love. (Yarbrough, 175)

4. What will happen to the children of God when they see Christ? (3:2)
5. According to verse 3, what will we do if we put our hope in Christ?

John Stott writes,

Christians who fix their hope (their confident expectation) upon Christ's return, will purify themselves, not ceremonially but morally. Purity (*hagneia*) is primarily 'freedom from moral stain' ...John has already emphasized that, since Christ is righteous, we must practice righteousness if we do not want to be ashamed at his coming (2:28-29). Similarly, since he is pure, and when we see him, we will be like him in his purity, we must ensure that the process of purification is begun now and purify ourselves. True, only the blood of Christ can cleanse us from the stain and guilt of sin (1:7), but we have a part to play in purifying ourselves from its power (2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Tim. 5:22; Jas 4:8; 1 Pet. 1:22). (Stott, 124)

6. How does John define sin in verse 4?
7. According to verse 5, what was one of the reasons Christ appeared?
8. What did John say about the person who lives in Christ? (3:6)
9. Who should be our model for righteous living? (3:7)

Morris Womack observes,

Even in our own day, there must be constant vigilance for those who would teach error. As we have tried to impress, many of the teachings of the Gnostics have arisen in different situations throughout the ages, and we have many of them in such new heresies as the New Age movement. The apostle Paul gave serious warnings not unlike those of John... (Acts 20:29-31). None of us is totally out of the devil's reach. Without constant protection from our Father and Jesus his Son, we could all fall into the hands of Satan. (Womack, 85)

10. What did John say about the person who does what is sinful? (3:8)
11. According to verse 8, what was one of the reasons Christ appeared?
12. Why can't the person who is born of God continue to sin? (3:9)

Womack comments,

The expression will continue to sin is a continuous present tense, indicating that one born of God will not continue living a life of sin. Again, it is not intended to suggest that the one born of God will never sin or make a mistake; it means that he will not live a life that is characterized by sin. (Womack, 87)

See also Hebrews 10:26-27

13. According to verse 10, what are the differences between the children of God and children of the devil?

Gary Burge writes,

When John describes the essential meaning of living like God's children, two emphases are placed in the forefront: assurance and righteousness. Perhaps these two can even be subsumed under a wider category: *transformation*. In the midst of the conflicts in his church, John desires that his followers exhibit a thorough-going change in how they view themselves and their relationship with God. His people need a renewed vision for who they are and what God desires them to become. It is through the renewal of that vision that a transformation will occur—and that transformation will bear measurable fruit: They will discover greater *assurance* in their identity as God's children and will begin to exhibit the *righteous* character of Jesus Christ. (Burge, 128)

14. What does it mean to continue in Christ?

15. What helps you to recognize and appreciate how much God loves you?

16. What helps you to maintain your hope in difficult times?

17. How can we guard against those who are trying to lead us astray?

18. What attitudes or actions will you adjust in your life so that you will be more like Christ?

Sources cited:

Burge, Gary. *The Letters of John*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996.

Stott, John. *The Letters of John*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2009.

Womack, Morris. *1, 2, & 3 John*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1998.

Yarbrough, Robert. *1-3 John*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.