Children of God

Read: 1 John 2:28-3:10

Main Idea: As children of God, we are called to live in a way that reflects our divine heritage, embracing our identity and responsibilities.

Key Verses: “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. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.” **(1 John 3:2-3)**

Key Principles

- Remaining in Christ today is how we prepare for His return, so that we will run to Him with confidence rather than shrink back in shame when He appears.
- Our righteous living does not make us God's children but proves that we already are, because new birth always comes before new behavior.
- The certain hope of seeing Jesus face to face should never make us passive, but should move us to pursue purity in the ordinary choices of today.
- Sin is never a small matter for a child of God, because at its root it is rebellion that sides with God’s enemy against our rightful King.
- Christ came not only to forgive our sins but to destroy the devil's work, so we fight temptation from a place of victory rather than for the victory.
- The clearest evidence of our spiritual parentage is not what we claim but a growing pattern of righteousness and love for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Discussion

1. What would it look like for you to be confident rather than ashamed when Christ appears? How does remaining in Him prepare you for that day?
2. Why do you think John stops to insist that we are not only called children of God but truly are His children? How should that shape the way you see yourself?
3. How does the hope of one day being like Jesus motivate you to purify yourself now? When is that hope hardest to hold onto?
4. What does John's description of sin as lawlessness reveal about how God views sin? Where are we most tempted to treat our own sin as no big deal?
5. What lies about sin and righteousness does our culture tell today? How does Christ's victory over the devil help you resist being deceived by them?
6. Where is God calling you to show more of His family likeness through righteousness or love for a fellow believer? What specific step will you take this week?

Prayer

- Pray for hearts to marvel at the Father’s love and long for Christ’s appearing.
- Pray for:
    - Grace to remain in Christ so we meet Him with confidence, not shame.
    - Victory over sin through the One who destroyed the devil’s work.
    - A world that does not know Him to come to know the Father.

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1 John 2:28-3:10

I.	**Live in Hope.**		**2:28–3:3**
	1.	Remain until His coming.	2:28-29
	2.	Rest in His love.	3:1-2a
	3.	Reach for His likeness.	3:2b-3
II.	**Live in Holiness.**		**3:4-10**
	1.	Reject lawlessness.	3:4-6
	2.	Resist deception.	3:7-8
	3.	Reflect righteousness.	3:9-10

NEXT WEEK:
Love that Transforms
1 John 3:11-24