

“Letters From John” - Part 6

1 John 2:28-3:10



“Child of God...Now?”

Up to this point, John has given us an almost binary perspective of those who belong to God and those who do not, as we’ve seen over and over again the contrast between these two worlds. In this passage however, though he continues along this same perspective, he shows us how intimate the world who belongs to God truly is.

Big Idea: “since we have been declared Children of God, we will exhibit the traits of our Father!”

Actively Abides (1 John 2:28-29)

*“²⁸ And now, dear children, **continue in him**, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming...” (1 John 2:28-3:10 NIV)*

- Christ’s return is mentioned 318 times in the 260 chapters of the New Testament.
- To **continue** or **abide** in Him is not shirking our responsibility and waiting for His return, but activity doing that work which you want Christ to catch you doing when He returns.
- John wants us to emphatically understand that a lifestyle of righteous deeds did not originate from man’s organic birth, but is a result of his spiritual birth from above.

Persistently Purifies (1 John 3:1-3)

*“...³ Everyone who has this hope in him **purifies himself**, just as he is pure. (1 John 3:1-3 NIV)*

- Throughout scripture God’s love is defined as doing something incredible for the objects of His love.

- It’s one thing to be redeemed and freed from the slavery of sin, it’s quite another to have those freed slaves become your children!
- To understand the natural outflow of this blessed hope, John uses the Greek verb **hagnizo**, as one who now continually prepares themselves to be ushered into the presence of a great monarch, and has been given a model to follow. That model is Jesus Christ!

Longingly Loves (1 John 3:4-10)

*“...¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not **love his brother**.” (1 John 3:4-10 NIV)*

- Christ’s first appearing was to destroy the power of sin. Those who abide in Him can and must have victory over sin.
- The NIV translation correctly attempts to convey the grammatical structure of the phrases. In essence what John is saying, “*those who continually live in Christ, will naturally not keep sinning, since living in Christ and sinning are mutually exclusive.*”
- John’s child-of-God-self-test...the “So What?” of the passage:
 - Do we desire with all our heart to do right, as God sees it?
 - As a child of God, do I love my brother?
- To love one another is the brand we are given to signify ownership by Jesus Christ.

Remember...

*“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you **will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ.” (Phil 1:6 ESV)*

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