

That our joy may be complete – 1 John

1 John 2:28-3:10

“Called Children of God” – March 22, 2020



Introduction

When times are tough, we long for control – to be able to do *something* that ensures an outcome we desire. If that's what we believe, we end up running ourselves ragged grasping for control or falling into despair when we realize we can't. The good news of *Christianity* is different. God's grace doesn't make obedience *unnecessary* - it changes the motivation for why we obey. So why should a Christian pursue holiness?

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. See God's love in making you His child (2:28-3:3)
- II. Remember light and darkness don't mix (3:4-10)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 John 2:28-3:3](#)

John is so overwhelmed by the love of God he pauses reflect. He wants us to see and cherish this love ([3:1](#)) because the hope that stems from such love fuels the Christian's obedience and pursuit of holiness ([3:3](#)). Where is it that we see this love John's talking about? In that God makes rebels like us His sons and daughters! It's amazing – in being born of Him, we have been and are being made completely new! Why does the world not appreciate what's happened to us? Being overlooked or the brunt of the joke can wear on us after a while and leave us tempted to compromise in order to fit in. But in [v2](#) John reminds us about the future when what is overlooked *now* will soon be impossible to overlook. On that day, the world will see the truth about Jesus and those who have trusted in Him.

How does this future hope change the way we live *today*? Are there things you're trusting that have proven unreliable or shaky? What are they and how is God's unfailing love and unchanging character a more reliable trust?

Additional Reading: Philippians 2:1-11, James 4:13-15, John 17:23

*One of the books we mentioned is J.I. Packer's, [Knowing God](#). If you have it, check out chapter 19, his chapter on adoption!

2) Read [1 John 3:4-10](#)

You will know a tree by its fruit, Jesus taught in Matthew 7. Over and against the false teachers who said that God was unconcerned with sin (which meant they too were unconcerned), John says if you make a practice of sinning it's a sign you don't know the God you think you do. Why? Remember why Jesus came! Reason 1: Jesus came to take away sins ([v5](#)). Reason 2: Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil ([v8](#)). When we come to grasp the length Jesus went to reconcile us to the Father...the cost He paid for our redemption we will not be indifferent to sin, we will hate it, confess it, fight it and put it to death with the help of God's Spirit ([Rom. 8:13](#)).

Remembering is an antidote to thinking little of sin or of God's love. Against the backdrop of what Christ did to redeem us, we see, as Tim Keller writes, that "we are more sinful and flawed than we ever dared believe...yet more loved and accepted in Jesus than we ever dared hope." Does your sin grieve you? Can you remember who you were and what you deserved before being adopted as a child of God? How does remembering help you better cherish God's love and obey His commands?

Additional Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 8:32-39

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to **Galatians 3:25-4:7 "Adopted as sons and daughters"**