

**FOR THE BROTHERS:
A STUDY IN THE EPISTLES OF JAMES, JOHN, JUDE
AMEN BIBLE STUDY 2016-2017**

**John: Children of God
I John 2:28-3:10
February 9, 2017**

I. The Christian has an eternal perspective. (2:28-29)

- A. The Christian lives in light of the Second Coming of Christ.
cf. John 14:1-3; Revelation 1:7-8

The coming judgment of God.

...so that when he appears...

cf. Luke 21:34-36; II Peter 3:10

- B. The Christian's call is to abide in Christ now.

²⁸ *And now, little children, abide in him,...*

- C. Abiding in Christ gives us assurance.

1. Confidence on the Day of Judgment.

...we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.

cf. John 5:24

2. Confidence that we have been born of Christ.

²⁹ *If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.*

cf. Romans 6:4

II. The Christian is awed by the Father's adopting love. (3:1-3)

- A. We are God's priority.

¹ *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

cf. Genesis 1:26; 3; 1 Corinthians 15:49; Romans 8:29

- B. As His Children, God has given us unimaginable blessings.

² *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.*

cf. Romans 8; II Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 1:3

- C. The result of God's love: We don't try earn God's favor, but rather live in response to it.

³ *And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*

cf. Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:4-8; Galatians 5: 16-26

III. The Christian hates sin (3:4-6)

cf. Romans 12:9; Philippians 3:18

- A. Sin is lawlessness.

⁴ *Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.*

cf. Matthew 7:23; II Corinthians 6:14

- B. Christ came to destroy sin.

⁵ *You know that he appeared in order to take away sins,...*

cf. Titus 2:14

C. A life of sin is incompatible with a life in Christ.

... and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

cf. Romans 6:15-18; 1 John 1:6

IV. The Christian seeks to be like his Father. (3:7-10)

How you live reveals your family heritage.

cf. John 8:39-74

A. The family of God.

1. The distinguishing mark: practical righteousness.

⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

cf. 1 John 1:7; 2:4-6; 2:9-11

2. The reason: We are born of the Spirit.

⁹ 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.

3. Our desire: we love what our Father loves.

¹⁰ 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.

cf. Psalm 119:163; Psalm 25:4; John 13:34

B. The family of the Devil.

1. The distinguishing mark: the practice of sin

⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil,

2. The reason: It has been the desire of Devil since the beginning.

...for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.