

Study Guide



1 John 2:28-3:3

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

"Living in Light of Christ's Return"

Word (45 Minutes)

The author continues his point from the text last week: abide in Him. He concludes our passage this week by giving the readers encouragement about their identity as children of God and the reason for their current suffering. Ultimately, both portions of this week's text function to help the readers rightly hope in their eventual consummated union with Christ.

For more in depth study check out the following pages...

Walk Prayer & Missions

October 12-22—South Sudan
December 18-28—South Sudan
For further information visit
norrisferrychurch.org

Calendar

September-November— [Women's Bible Study](#)
October 9th— Kids 1st-3rd Worship with parents and Worship in the Annex
October 30th—Trunk or Treat

Reminder

During our 10:30am service: Kids 1st-3rd will worship with their parents at the beginning of service and will then be dismissed. We will also have another service available in the Annex with live music and video of the sermon.

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Jesus?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[Come Lord Jesus](#)":

Come Lord Jesus, come
Come Lord Jesus, come

Come again to claim your own
Come to reap what you have sown
All creation weeps and groans for you

It's to you that we belong
It's to you we lift our song
How our spirits look and long for you

Like a thief in dead of night
Come, our everlasting light
Let your brilliance shame the brightest day

With your voice like endless seas
Wielding swords and stars and keys
Bring the nations to their knees, we pray

For though fitful is our flame
You're from age to age the same
Jesus, faithful is your name and true

So until the sun does rise
Till your trumpets rend the skies
Help us keep our restless eyes on you

Word (45 Minutes)

The Admonition (2:28-29)

Here we see repeated the phrase that we've already read numerous times in the few verses we've covered thus far in 1 John. Note the term of endearment "little children" repeated here. John is spurring on those whom he loves as family. And why are they called to abide in him? **They are to abide in him so that when he appears we may have confidence and wouldn't shrink back in shame!**

When paired with the texts we've covered so far in chapters 1 and 2, the picture is clearly painted. The Lord is holy and he's commanded those who bear his name to be holy. Therefore, live holy so that you will not be ashamed at his arrival. He is righteous and those who practice righteousness belong to him.

The causal relationship that we see here must be handled with care, lest we invalidate all of Paul's letters. John does not write that we should practice righteousness so that we may be born of him. Our behavior is not something that obtains right standing with God. **Our behavior is something that proves our position before God.** Trees are known by their fruit and the fruit produced in the life of a believer is the fruit of righteousness.

Let us not focus exclusively on theological theory here. The readers of John's letter had to put these words into practice. As they are being pressured by those who've left the faith to adopt heretical understandings of who Christ is and what he's done, John calls them to stand firm and walk in righteousness. Persecution and pressures abound, but John grounds their ability to live holy lives in their identity in Christ.

Children of God (3:1-3)

John continues to discuss the identity of the believer in Chapter 3 in an expression of wonder at the incredible love God shows us in our adoption. Stott writes, "The expression how great translates *potapen* which meant originally 'of what country'. It is as if the Father's love is so unearthly, so foreign to this world, that John wonders from what country it may come" (Stott, 122). **It is amazing to the author that we, those who were formerly enemies of God, could be called children of God.** Even more amazing is the fact that this is not a mere title: and such we are!

This is not an insignificant clarification. John makes clear that we're not only being called children of God. This is not an accounting trick that makes those who are not God's children appear to be God's children. We are actually the children of God and heirs to the promises that he's made to Abraham (Galatians 3:29)

Our identity as children of God gives the readers hope that they won't shrink back at His coming, but it also helps them understand their current struggles. Marshall writes, "In fact, the world hates the children of God (3:13), just as it hated Jesus (Jn. 15:18f), since they do not belong to the world" (Marshall, 171). **We do not suffer for a Savior who cannot identify with our struggles.** What an encouragement!

John continues in his encouragement: Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. This verse calls our minds back to the world that is passing away from 2:17. The progression of the believer here stands in contrast to the progression of the world. The ways of the world are passing away and the believer is being perfected (a process that will be complete when we see Him face to face).

This is our ultimate hope! We do not lament the fact that we are at odds with the world. We recognize that we are at odds with the world because we are in union with the Father. Further, we hope in things that are eternal and not in the temporal. May God keep these realities before our eyes until we see Him face to face.

Sermon Questions

What Does it Say?

1. Why does John tell the readers they should abide in Him?
2. Those who practice righteousness indicate what about themselves?
3. What does verse one say is the great revelation of God's love?
4. What does this identity as children of God explain about their current position in the world?
5. What will happen when He appears?
6. All who purify themselves do what according to verse 3?

Sermon Questions

What Does it Mean?

1. Why might someone shrink back at shame at Christ's second coming? Would a lack of righteousness prove something about them?
2. The author rightly says that it is a great act of love to be called a child of God. Is the bigger story the clause that concludes the sentence (and such we are)? Why the clarification and why is it significant?
3. Verse 3:2 shows us that we have not yet become who we will be once we've seen him face to face. This moment of clarity is transformative. Why do you think seeing Christ in a more clear way (even more clearly than we see him through the Bible) will be transformative for the believer?
4. How does hope purify us?

Sermon Questions

How Does it Apply?

1. Does knowing that you're a child of God help you to abide in Christ and keep his commandments? Does it help you to endure difficult circumstances? How?
2. When you think of Christ's return is your first reaction one of hope and joy or is it a feeling of fear? How can you have more confidence at his appearing?

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in 1 John to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you lead your groups! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

Model Answers

What does it say?

1. So that when he appears, they may have confidence.
2. They indicate that they have been born of Him.
3. That they (the readers) should be called children of God.
4. It explains why the world does not know them...because they did not know him.
5. They will be like him because they will see him as he is.
6. They have the hope that they will be transformed at his appearing.

What does it mean?

1. The text states the admonition positively: Abide in him because those who do righteously are born of him. You could state it negatively: Those who fail to abide in him prove themselves to be outside the kingdom by their unrighteousness.
2. Answers may vary. Yes, it is a greater honor to be children of God than it is to merely be called children of God. The author clarifies his earlier statement to drive home this point. Not only have we been given the honor of being counted as family, we ARE family.
3. Answers will vary.
4. If our hope is in what Christ has accomplished and what he will accomplish, than that hope could be synonymous with trust or belief. The hope that the author describes leads to abiding in Christ. Thus, we see the necessary ingredients for salvation (repent and believe). There is no greater purification.

Join us for some family fun!

Norris Ferry
Community
Church's



 **FALL** 
FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 30th

4:00 – 6:00 pm

Norris Ferry Community Church
10509 Norris Ferry Road
Shreveport, LA 71106

Costumes Encouraged!
(No scary ones, please!)

•Fun•Food•Games

•Face painting•Fire truck•Inflatables

and.....

