

Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline

October 30, 2016 (John Robertson)

Kingdom Family - Children of God

1 John 2:28- 3:10

Children of God

Who you are determines what you do.

As His children we come to experience His love and grace and compassion and guidance and direction, even at times his discipline. This is an ongoing relationship.

It's when you realise who you are, that you realise that you were behaving below your nature – you were living short of your potential. Chris Vallotton

And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him. 1 John 2:28-29 (NIV)

As John puts it we start to pursue righteousness, holiness, or purity. It's a part of the character and example of who God is and therefore what we too as His kids should be like.

God isn't the type of dad looking to find fault or to catch us out and make us feel ashamed or looking to punish us. So John reminds us that when we are

born into God's family and we become children of God – this is because of the Father's lavish love!

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1 (NIV)

The basis of this relationship is love not punishment. Its love not rules. This is not about religion – it's not about a set of dos and don'ts, this is about a relationship of love. A perfect Father and His kids – whom He knows full well, are less than perfect.

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2 (NIV)

The encouragement is to start to live to your potential.

All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

1 John 3:3 (NIV)

No Sin

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. 1 John 3:4-6 (NIV)

The bible makes two things clear about sin.

1. First, everyone sins but living a lifestyle of sin indicates that you are not walking in the power of the Holy Spirit, regardless of what you say about your spiritual condition. You **cannot** spend time studying and meditating on God's word, praying and walking in fellowship (abiding) with the Holy Spirit, and persist in sin.

2. Second, if you do not hate sin the way God does, then perhaps you do not truly know Him.

The evidence of being a child of God, the evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life is that you are defeating sin. This doesn't mean that you will never sin (1 John 1:8), but it does mean that you refuse to make sin a lifestyle and you quickly seek forgiveness when you sin (1 John 1:9 -10).

Partnering with Jesus

The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 1 John 3:8 (NIV)

Good news – the works of the devil have been destroyed! That's what Jesus came to do (Colossians 2:13-15). We are free to start making choices for Him and His kingdom.

We partner now to live in the kingdom of God that was ushered in by Jesus when He destroyed the works of the enemy (Matthew 6:9-10).

Living as God's Children

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 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 God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister. 1 John 3:9-10 (NIV)

How do we live as God's children? We abide – we remind ourselves of whose family we have been born into – we live walking with the one whose name we represent. We have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of his beloved Son (Colossians 1:13). We are seated in the heavenly places with Christ (Ephesians 1:20; 2:6), and He's already put everything under

your feet (Hebrews 2:8; Romans 16:20). He's given us every blessing in heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3) – it's already happened. The ramification of this is that we are to live out this kingdom (Romans 8:14-17).

Discussion Questions

1. To “abide” in Jesus is to actively remain and continue in him. Are you abiding in Jesus? Do you consider yourself one who strives to do this? Why or why not?
2. John expresses a sense of urgency for us to abide in Christ so that we may have confidence when he returns. How does Jesus' imminent return alter our faith, daily lives, and priorities?
3. Some in your group may be enslaved to a pattern of sin. This does not necessarily mean they're not Christians (see 1 John 1:8–10), only that they need encouragement and support to help overcome it. This week may be a good time to share in pairs and encourage each other to seek Christ for deliverance and support. How can you love one another through the process of repentance?
4. John says God is a Father, we are his children, and we are to love other Christians as brothers and sisters. Why do you think John emphasizes these family relationships?
5. What would it look like if as a child of God you started to live in the victory that Christ won over the enemy? What changes would the kingdom of heaven bring to your work place, family, and neighbourhood?