

24/25 October 2023 //

1 John 2:28 - 3:10 (click on two different translations below)

NIV or The Message Translation

Background:

On Sunday, Felix and Rory unpacked the verses immediately preceding this in 1 John 2:18-27. There John invites us to return to Jesus and remain in the Truth. We also unpacked what it means to have eternal life and the assurance that as followers of Jesus, we are recipients of that life even this side of eternity - it's ours to start living right now!

When we think of the three "tests" we were introduced to last week, which of these did Sunday's passage highlight?

In the passage we are looking at in groups this week, John explores what it looks like to be children of God - primarily in relation to our sin.

Remaining In Christ

See 1 John 2: 28-29

Vs. 28 looks forward to Christ's return. That day has the potential to be one of either ecstatic rejoicing and union or debilitating shame. Share with one another how you feel when you anticipate that day... and then discuss how we can be certain of what kind of reunion that will be for children of God. (Also consider [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) and [James 2:14-17](#) as you discuss this.)

Who does He say I am?

See 1 John 3:1-2

These verses speak right to the heart of our identity. vs. 1 tells us who we are and vs. 2 tells us who we are becoming. (See also [Romans 8:29](#))

What difference would it make to us this week if we knew, felt, rested, and lived out this reality?

Once we accept the Truth of who Jesus is and what His death and resurrection has achieved, and give him lordship over our lives, we are no longer the shame-filled citizens of the garden of Eden but instead forgiven, free and confident children of the King of Kings being transformed into the likeness of Jesus.

Righteous living

So how does a correct understanding of our Identity in God translate into how we live our day-to-day lives here on earth? Particularly when it comes to our behaviour?

See 1 John 3: 3- 10

The distinction is made here between the fruit of a child of God and the fruit of someone who does not yet know God. (See the words of Jesus in [Matthew 7:17 - 23](#).)

God has purified us but there are actions we must take (or behaviours to abstain from) to remain morally fit.

John is not presuming that followers of Jesus will never again sin - instead he is challenging the heart of those who make a practice of sinning and look for ways to justify it. The heart / motivation of a child of God is one that is working to gain victory over sin.

Born again!

See 1 John 3:9

What happens to us when we are "born into God's family"?

Who comes to dwell within us?

If we have the Holy Spirit indwelling our hearts and minds, how might His presence contribute to our struggle against sin? (See [Romans 12:2](#) and [Ephesians 4:22-24](#) and [Galatians 5:16-17](#)) (NB John can't mean the believer no longer sins at all - otherwise he wouldn't have said 1 John 1:9. He must mean that the believer's general posture, our main leaning, is now towards Christ and His ways, rather than our own sinful desires)

Responding in Prayer

Spend some time in **prayer** responding to what God has highlighted in you during this session.

Maybe use some of the verses we have looked up as a prayer. Are there ways that through the week we can hold one another up in prayer as specific struggles or temptations have been brought into the light?

Looking ahead:

- Next Wednesday (1 November) - Connect Group leaders training at 6:35pm at the church followed by the all-church prayer meeting at 7:30pm;
- 18 November Connect Group leaders day - please sign up on [this link](#)