

Evidence of Being a Child of God

Text: 1 John 2:18-29

Topics: Conversion, Fruit, Repentance, Love

Series: Bold Assurance

South Orlando Baptist Church

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If you are a true child of God, you will...

1. Look _____ to the Return of Jesus (vs. 1 John 3:1-3)
 - A. When Jesus returns, he will conform every believer to His image. He will make us like himself, but we will not become God or gods.
 - B. This hope is a “purifying” hope. Reflecting on the return of Jesus fuels our energy to battle sin and seek after holiness in this life.
 - C. Do you reflect much on the immanent return of Jesus?

2. Live a _____ Life (1 John 3:4-10a)
 - A. “The verb, “commits,” in the Gr. conveys the idea of making sin a habitual practice. Although genuine Christians have a sin nature (1:8), and do commit and need to confess sin (1:9; 2:1), that is not the unbroken pattern of their lives. A genuinely born again believer has a built-in check or guard against habitual sinning due to a new nature.” (John MacArthur)
 - B. 1 John 3:9 (HCSB) “Everyone who has been born of God does not sin, because His seed remains in him; he is not able to sin, because he has been born of God.” Misunderstanding of this passage has led some believers into the error that a Christian can attain “Sinless perfection.” Again, the greek is more focused on a continuing pattern of sin.
 - C. Our lives must “bear fruit in keeping with repentance” (Matthew 3:8, Luke 3:8, Acts 26:20)

3. _____ One Another (1 John 3:10b-15)
 - A. Cain presented sacrifices to God and had the outward appearance of a believer in God His murder of Abel revealed that he was really a “child of the devil.”
 - B. John equates hatred of a brother with murder. When you hate someone, you wish that they were dead. God sees this hatred as murder.
 - C. Do you have any abiding hatred for anyone?

Application Questions

- 1. How has the Father lavished love upon believers? (3:1)**
- 2. Why doesn't the world know Christians? (3:1)**
- 3. What will happen to the children of God when they see Christ? (3:2)**
- 4. What kind of person purifies himself or herself? (3:3)**
- 5. What is sin? (3:4)**
- 6. Why did Christ appear? (3:5)**
- 7. How is a person who lives in Christ unusual? (3:6)**
- 8. What does it mean to do what is right? (3:7)**
- 9. What did John say about the person who does what is sinful? (3:8)**
- 10. Why did the Son of God appear? (3:8)**
- 11. Why can't the person who is born of God continue to sin? (3:9)**
- 12. How are children of God and children of the devil identified? (3:10)**
- 13. What does it mean to continue in Christ?**
- 14. How are you preparing yourself for Christ's return?**
- 15. What is so great about being a child of God?**
- 16. When have you felt that your non-Christian friends did not really know or understand you?**
- 17. How do you reconcile the fact that Christians do sin with the statements that they cannot sin or keep on sinning?**
- 18. How can we know that we are children of God?**
- 19. What step will you take today to purify yourself?**
- 20. What area of weakness will you ask God to strengthen this week?**