

Part 4 study of 1 John 2:28-3:10- Children of God

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today at the PUNLA Coffee Table. So, get comfortable, get your coffee or tea or water and settle in for our talk.

I hope everyone is doing well.

Today we are continuing our study of 1st John. 1 John 2:28-3:10 can be summarized as Living as Children of God

Remember before we start reading the bible we need to remember the background of 1st John. The author is the Apostle John. Most scholars believe it was written in AD85-90. The main themes in 1st John are,

- True Teaching, True Living and True Loving
- Encourage Christian who are being persecuted (who/why it was written to and what was happening in History). Christians were being persecuted by the Romans, by the Jews and pretty much very other group.
- We can Trust “who Jesus is”
- Jesus is both man & God - ignore false teachers who deny
- Correct the wrong ideas about Jesus
- Correct idea about what is good and evil which lead to the lack of morality in the church

John reminds his readers that when we as Christians exhibit the character of God in our behavior, and live holy lives, the world will recognize that we are his children. Children of God!

Today we are going to study 1st John 2:28-3:10: Living as Children of God

Let's Read 1 John 2:28-29. I'm reading from the NKJV. ²⁸ *And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.* ²⁹ *If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.*

What does John mean when he exhorts us to “live in” Christ or “abide in Him” (v.28)?

Abide means to “accept or act in accordance with”. Or in other words to obey or to follow. So, John is encouraging us to be confident and follow Jesus. Such that you won't be embarrassed or ashamed when you face God at His coming. Let that sink in for a moment. Have you have thought about that moment, when you are face to face with Jesus. Will you be confident or ashamed.?

Let's continue reading 1 John 3:1-2 (NKJV) ¹*Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.* ²*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

What are some advantages to being a child of God? To understand what John is talking about we need to remember, in his day every country and region was a kingdom with a King. A King could do whatever he wanted to do in his kingdom. The kingdom is the area of the King's influence. Kings were not accessible to just anyone. If you tried to see or talk to a king without permission you could be arrested or even killed.

But, who could talk to the king anytime they wanted without getting into trouble? The King's Children of course. Since God Created everything and is in charge of everything that makes Him the King of everything.

John says, because of Jesus we are invited to be The children of God or the kids of the King of everything. This means we can be with God and talk with God anytime we want. That's pretty powerful.

This passage also indicates that not everyone is a child of God. Do you think most people agree with this idea?

I think we all agree we are all made in the image of God. But that does not make us His children. The Bible teaches us that we must be adopted into the family of God, through faith in Jesus as our Savior. But, I've heard people argue about this.

I suggest relying on Jesus to tell us. John 1:12 *¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:*

Let's continue reading 1 John 3:3-8(NKJV) *³And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. ⁴Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. ⁵And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

Let's continue reading 1 John 3:9 –10(NKJV) *⁹Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.*

The reality is that Christians sin daily. How do we reconcile this with the statements that God's children "cannot sin" (v. 9)? Even though we are children of God, we are still selfish and unkind to others.? Well being adopted into the God's family gives us privileges but it takes time to become like Jesus. The more time we spend with Jesus, trying to be like Jesus. The more like Jesus we will become as God molds our character to be more and more like Jesus Christ. Overtime we will become kinder and more loving. That's a sign of the knowing God and being his child.

What does it mean to you, to be a Child of God? You can always talk to God, About anything. And you'll never get in trouble or interrupting him. Do you really believe that we're princes and princesses?

Someone has observed that oftentimes Christians do not make it their goal not to sin – we make it our goal not to sin *too much*. Such a mind-set misses completely the truth about holiness. Who would knowingly drink a glass of water containing "just a few drops" of toxic chemicals? Nobody! You'd just as soon guzzle a full bottle of deadly poison! So why do we tolerate a "little" sin? As the children of the holy God, we are called to reflect his character and represent him to the world. It is a serious challenge, a sobering

responsibility. But it is not impossible. God has given us his truth, his Spirit, and his people (i.e., the church) to enable us to live as he wants.

I'm going to conclude by asking you a couple questions for you to ponder during the coming week.

If Christ came back today, would you be more excited or more ashamed? Why? Remember if you are a Christian you are a Child of the King or Kings. A Child of God.

Assuming you have put faith in Christ, what are some ways you have begun to resemble your Father in heaven? Don't be too hard on yourselves. Look at your successes following Jesus and build on these.

What specific actions you can take today, so that will you more closely resemble your heavenly Father? Don't say everything. We've all been in that place. But think of the thing you struggle with, now turn that over to God and ask Jesus to help you, do as He would do in this area of your life.

Here is a list of other Bible passages about being a Child of God:

Deuteronomy 14:2, Isaiah 63:16, Romans 8:15, 1Corinthians 6:18 Galatians 3:26, 4:5-6, Ephesians 2:19, 3:15, Hebrews 2:11

I encourage you to read them and meditate on how we are Children of God no matter what the world says or does, we are Children of the creator of the universe. The King of everything.

Let's Pray.

Father God, thank you for accepting me into your family even though I'm still a sinner. I'm still broken and messed up. Help me to follow you, so I can become more and more like you Jesus.

I am a Child of God. That sounds so amazing to me. I'm overwhelmed by your love for us.

I pray for the listener, may they embrace your gift of adoption into your divine family. May we live as true princes and princess of the King of Kings.

I pray this in your name, Jesus Amen

Thank you for joining me at the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please select like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me at kip@punla.org. I appreciate your feedback.

Next week we will be continuing our study with 1 John 3:11-24 Love One Another.

See you next time at the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.