

1, 2, 3 JOHN
THIS IS THE LIFE
SMALL GROUP STUDY #6
LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY
1John 2:28-3:10

Ice Breaker: What qualities would you expect to find in a person who claims to be a child of God? Would you expect perfection? Why or why not?

INTRO: John was amazed at the fact that God calls us His children. God is perfect and we are so far from perfect we can sometimes doubt ourselves. But, as we continue in Him, we become very different people. In fact, John tells us we become so different that we can't continue to sin. This may seem hard to believe given our constant fight with sin, but righteousness is a birthright for kids of the King.

READ: 1John 2:28-3:10

*2:8 And now, dear children, **continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed** before him at his coming.*

2:9 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

*3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! **The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.** 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and **what we will be has not yet been made known.** But we know that **when he appears, we shall be like him**, for we shall see him as he is. 3 **Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.***

*4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; **in fact, sin is lawlessness.** 5 But you know **that he appeared so that he might take away our sins.** And in him is no sin. 6 **No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.***

*7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. **He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.** 8 He 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. 9 **No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.** 10 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 a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.***

Q: Why does John tell his readers in vs. 2:8 to "continue in Him"?

- Why might a disciple not be confident and unashamed when Jesus appears?
- **Nobody who loves Jesus wants to disappoint Him. Because Jesus is perfect, we can sometimes feel like we are a disappointment to Him.**

- John is reminding his readers that perfection isn't the way to be confident and unashamed... it's living righteously... staying *in* Him.

Q: Vs. 3:1 reminds us that we are called God's children. Being a child of God comes with both privileges and responsibilities.

- What are some of the privileges?
 - 1Cor. 1:5; Eph. 1:7, 13; Eph. 2:21; Eph. 3:12
- What are some of the responsibilities?
 - Col 2:6; 1John 2:4; 1John 3:24; 1John 4:15

Q: What might John mean when he says "what we will be has not yet been made known" (vs. 3:2)?

Q: The blood of Jesus cleanses us from the stain and guilt of sin, but John makes it clear in verse 3 that we also have a part in purifying ourselves from sin's power.

What do the following verses say about your part in being purified?

- 2Cor. 7:1 "*Since we have these promises, dear friends, **let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.***"
- 1Tim. 5:22 "*... **do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.***"
- 1Pet. 1:22 "*Now that you have **purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.***"

Q: According to John, how serious a problem is sin? (vs. 4-9)

- In these same verses, what does John say Jesus' purpose is?
- What conclusion can you draw from John's statements?

Q: What reassurance do you get from vs. 6?

- How does this verse help you understand why some people (maybe even you) don't seem to change or grow?

Q: Vs. 7 calls for us to live righteously. What is the difference between living perfectly and living righteously?

Q: According to verse 10, what does John say the "acid test" of Christian behavior is?

- Does loving your brother require you to have "warm fuzzy" feelings? If not, what is required?

APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT: *Answer the following questions as best you can, then get with your discipler/discipleship group and discuss your answers.*

1. If Jesus returned to today, would be confident and unashamed before Him?
Why or why not?
2. Which have you focused on more: living perfectly or living righteously?
3. How are you doing at loving your brothers?