

SESSION 5 – WEEK OF 14 FEB 2021

WHO ARE THE TRUE CHILDREN OF GOD?

SCRIPTURE: 1JOHN 2: 28-3:10

**Theme:**

In previous weeks, we explored and discussed how obedience to Christ's commands is essential to living in the light and living as Christ (1:5-10 and 2:3-6). The theme this week explores the emphasis on who the true children of God are. The benchmark of what John sets to identify the true children of God are found in obedience, love and hope.

**Key Verse:**

"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." (1John 3:10)

Read 1 John 2: 28-3:10

**Core Questions for Discussion**

(If your group meets fortnightly, combine Core Questions of two sessions and choose one Further Question from either session.)

1. From 2:28-29 and 3:9-10, what qualities or attributes distinguishes children of God apart from children of the devil?
  - a. When Jesus "appears", what is something we can hope for and be confident in?
  - b. How does the hope of Christ's appearance (3:2-3) serve as a purifying influence in your life?
2. At verse 28 we are told to continue in Jesus, "so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming".
  - a. When Jesus "appears", what is something we can hope for and be confident in?
  - b. How does the hope of Christ's appearance (3:2-3) serve as a purifying influence in your life?

3. Why is it impossible for any follower of Christ or one who is born of God to continue in sin (3:4-10)? What is the deception that John warns against (3:7)?

John Stott on "the new birth"

"The new birth involves the acquisition of a new nature through the implanting within us of the very seed or life-giving power of God. Birth from God is a deep, radical, inward transformation. Moreover, the new nature received at the new birth remains. It exerts a strong internal pressure towards holiness. It is the abiding influence of His seed within everyone who is born of God, which enables John to affirm without fear of contradiction that he cannot go on living in sin"

- John Stott, *The Letters of John: An Introduction and Commentary* (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries), p. 127.

4. The test of who the true children of God are can be identified as those who obey, those who love and those who hope (Rev Jeremy Ong). What are some of the things you might have to change in your life to truly reflect that you are a true child of God?

- a. Test of obedience – sin is detestable to God do you treat sin as God does? Can we, as a child of God, obey God and keep on sinning? (v.4, 6, 9)
- b. Test of love – do we love our brothers and sisters? (v.10 and 1 John 2:15-16)
- c. Test of hope – are we a people of hope? Where does our hope lie? Is it entirely in God and His kingdom to come? (v.3)

Can we be a people of obedience, love and hope?

Church theme 2021:

Jesus, Our Light In The Darkness;  
A Lamp In Every Home

To live in the light is:

- to obey God with regard to sin
- to love our brothers and sisters
- to hope in the midst of darkness holding to Jesus as our light, and a lamp in our home

### Further Questions for Discussion

(Optional question for discussion if time permits. Do allocate adequate time for prayer and fellowship.)

5. *If You Have Time ...*

How does John's definition of sin (3:4) compare with some of the viewpoints people have today?

## Suggestions for Prayer

### 1. We could pray for:

- a. **Ourselves:** Are you “born of God”? If you are not, or are not sure, perhaps now is the time to invite Jesus into your life. Confess your sins, accept what Jesus has done for you on the cross, believe that He is risen from the dead and invite Him into your life.  
Perhaps you have invited Jesus into your life, but have not fully committed to living right by God. You have knowingly or unknowingly allowed various “idols” to displace God as the center of your life. You have lived primarily for yourself and have subtly entertained sin in your life. Confess your sins, for God will forgive you. Then accept His forgiveness, accept His affirmation that you are His child, commit to doing what is right by God, and look to God to empower you in living your life for Him and Him alone.
  
- b. **Others:** Would you take this opportunity to pray for someone who might need to hear this message, pray for them, pray for an opportunity to share the link to the sermon recording from our website  
<<http://www.brmc.org.sg/category/resources/sermons>>.  
Be ready and open to share and discuss this passage with them. Pray for guidance of the Holy Spirit and boldness and courage.