

1 John 2:28–3:10

We are children of God!

(*The Lutheran Study Bible*, pages 2175–2176)

Look

- 3:6 “*No one who keeps on sinning*”—Christians will not purposely live in sin. This does not mean that Christians will live perfect lives (1:8, 10). But willful, premeditated sins drive out faith or reveal unbelief.
- 3:7 “*As he is righteous*”—This could just as well refer to God as to us. We do what is righteous, just as God is righteous. Those who follow the devil, however, do sinful actions.
- 3:9 “*God’s seed*”—This is similar to the anointing all Christians have received. God’s seed is faith, created by the Spirit, making us new creations. It is the seed from which all our good works proceed.

Discuss

1. What will enable us to be confident and unashamed before Christ at his coming? (verses 28, 29)
2. In verse 1, John speaks about the great privilege we have in being children of God. This is also the reason why the world does not know us. Explain.
3. What is another reason why Christians strive to purify themselves according to verse 2?
4. Jesus took away our sins. There is no sin in him. What does this motivate us to do? (verses 4–6)
5. God’s seed remains in us. It leads us to look at our sins, repent of them, and strive to serve the Lord. We cannot do otherwise. To do otherwise would be to give up our faith. How does this distinguish Christians from unbelievers?

Apply

6. Agree or disagree. There is a difference between occasionally having a lustful thought and living in the sin of adultery.

God’s children will not live in sin. God’s seed within them leads them to serve the Lord. They always ask for his forgiveness when they fail. Unbelievers have no knowledge of why they do what they do, and they continue on in their sinful lives.