

1 JOHN

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"Children of God: **So We Are!**" -1 John 2:28 - 3:1-3

TEXT: 1 JOHN 2:28-3:1-3 (ESV)

1 John 2:28-29 ESV And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

1 John 3:1-3 ESV See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

In today's passage John is in awe of the **type of love** that God has extended to us. John directs our attention to **four key markers** that all **children of God** have in common.

Children of God are:

1. _____ OF HIM

1 John 2:29 ESV

If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been **born of him**.

"BORN AGAIN"

Children of God:

2. _____ TO HIM

1 John 3:1 ESV

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called **children of God; and so we are**. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Romans 8:15-16

15 ... the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption to sonship**. And by him we cry, "**Abba, Father.**" 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that **we are God's children**.

(See also: Eph 1:5)

God's love extended beyond a **rescue plan** and into a **secured adoption**.

"1 John is not a list of do's and don'ts; it is a manifesto of 'Done!'"

Children of God will:

3. _____ LIKE HIM

1 John 3:2 ESV

Beloved, **we are God's children now**, and **what we will be** has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears **we shall be like him**, because we shall see him as he is.

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you **will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:18

... the Lord—who is the Spirit—**makes us more and more like him** as we are changed into his glorious image.

*"What we will **be**..."*

*"...when he **appears**..."*

*we will be **like** him..."*

Children of God:

4. _____ IN ANTICIPATION OF HIM

1 John 3:3 ESV

And everyone who thus hopes in him **purifies himself** as he is pure.

1 John 2:6

whoever says he abides in him ought to **walk in the same way in which he walked**.

"The Christian who looks forward to seeing Christ is committed to moral purification in the present, because he desires to be like Christ both in the future and now."
—John Stott

SUMMARY:

John inspires us to stand in awe of **God's astonishing love** — that **we are His children** through Christ's atoning work. Because we have been **born of Him**, we **belong to Him**. One day we will **become like Him**, and even now we are called to **live in anticipation of His appearing**. Here is the central truth: the atoning work of Christ secures our future, and our identity as God's children shapes our present obedience and fills us with hope."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FOR SMALL GROUPS OR
SOLO REFLECTION
ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF
ROOM AS YOU WALK IN.

SONGS

I BELIEVE
HOW GREAT THOU ART
WAY MAKER
NO LONGER SLAVES
FOREVER

BUDGET

Giving Last Week: \$24,673.81
2025 Year to Date Giving: \$1,273,709.50
2025 Giving vs Need: \$266,010.5 Below Need
Altamont Expansion Fund: \$239,609.79
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