

Children of God and the Hope (Part 1)

1 John 2:28-3:3

Introduction

There is much confusion going around about who belongs to God in this world. Many people affirm the fatherhood of God where He is the father of every human being on earth and that all human beings are one happy family. This is very much evident today as the world speaks against the exclusivity of the Christian faith, and they preach the all-inclusive message of tolerance and acceptance. John says no to the all-inclusive attitude. In fact, he says that those who preach contrary to the gospel will be ashamed at His coming—meaning that unbelievers will be judged at His appearing. He writes about the sure hope to all true children of God who hold fast to His name that at His appearing we will have confidence. We have this confidence as children of God, and today we will look at what makes us children of God and see what that hope is for them next week.

I. Children of God

- Our new nature

Note: What does it mean to be a child? This can simply be a relationship: a child is related to the parent that no one else is. This is a legal perspective. However, there is also an organic sense where the child is of like nature of the parent (i.e. child has received the DNA from two parents).

- Born of God (v 29-3:1)

- Identity of the children of God

Note: A child has the same nature as their parent—so when we are born of God, we receive God's nature. John says that we are children of God with a unique and special relationship with Him.

2 Peter 1:4 *by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Clarification: Having His nature does not mean that we are identical to Christ—being omniscient or omnipotent. It means that we take on His attributes—His holiness, righteousness, love, etc. This union is made clear by Jesus' illustration of the vine and the branches.

- Becoming children of God

Note: Through God changing us and through our faith in Christ, we are born again. We are born again from the Spirit. We are never born again out of our heritage, family, or will.

Gal 3:26 *or you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

John 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, (13) who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

John 3:5 *Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*

- Inheritance of the children of God

Note: What a wonderful love that John marvels and encourages us to marvel and wonder. We are children of God! He demonstrated His love to us that Christ died for us (even while we were still sinners). What love! Through His love, we become joint heirs with Christ. Through His love, He has given us a new name (fulfilled in **Rev 3:12**).

Isaiah 56:5 *Even to them I will give in My house and within My walls a place and a name better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.*

Ephesians 2:4-7 *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (7) that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

Revelation 3:12 *He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.*

Transition: God loves His people so much that He conforms us to the likeness of His Son (**Romans 8:29**) that was part of the eternal plan!

Romans 8:29 *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

○ Christ-likeness

▪ Righteousness (v 29)

Note: Because we are children of God—righteousness is an essential part of our relationship and walk with God. We are called to be righteous in Him, and righteous is the quality, the kind of life that was lived by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself (Lloyd-Jones). John tells us to walk in the light (1:7)—which is to be righteous.

- Keep His commandments (2:3)
- Love your brothers and sisters (2:10)
- Love not the world (2:15)

Note: As Christians live in righteousness, they will be satisfied in Christ.

Psalms 17:15 *As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.*

▪ Purity (v 3:3)

Note: We have to view this verse (3) in context with verse 2 which at the coming of Jesus we shall be as He is. John is saying here that we know we are to meet God and we must prepare ourselves to meet Him. Our preparation is holiness or purity.

2 Corinthians 7:1 *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

1 Peter 1:14-16 *as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; (15) but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (16) because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*

Note: In other words holiness should be practiced and lived in every aspect of our life.

Philippians 3:12-14 *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. (13) Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, (14) I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Note: Paul understood this because he demonstrated this with his life to the best of his ability as a Christian. He wanted to live in the life of holiness, and it was something he had to work out (**Phil 2:12-13**). James added that faith without works is dead—and because we are a child of God, we strive to do good works.

Philippians 2:13-15a *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. (14) Do all things without complaining and disputing, (15) that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault*

• Our confidence (v28)

Note: John says here that as a child of God—we should have confidence before His appearing (2nd coming) that we would not be ashamed. For those who are ashamed—they are unbelievers who have doubted or rejected Christ. Not only that—they would not understand us since they are not of us.

Ephesians 3:12 *in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.*

Note: Our faith is the substance of our confidence. We know we belong to Him.

1 John 4:17 *Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.*

Note: His love is another aspect to our boldness! We love Him and want to do good for Him.

• Our glorification (v28, 3:2)

- **Note:** This is a tie-in to next Sunday—our hope. John says in effect, "Today, we have no idea what we will look like when we arrive to see Him face-to-face. I cannot even attempt to guess, much less explain it. But one thing we can be sure is that when we see Him, we shall be like Him in His glorified body." This is the pinnacle of the promise to His children—that we will be delivered from this body of death.

2 Corinthians 3:18 *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Note: Even Paul says that we are being transformed right now—heart, mind, and spirit. And in that Day, our body will be transformed completely on the day of consummation, when we see Him face-to-face. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

II. Hope

Introduction

We live in a very materialistic society where we try to cling to this life with a vengeance—we try to pack our life with all the good experiences, benefits, and goods that the life has to offer. This often has been the case that Christians will fall prey to false teachings that your best life is now. Jesus said that His kingdom is not of this world—the physical world. If we are of Christ—if we are children of God—then our focus is not of this world. Our kingdom is in heaven and we bow to Him who reigns forever and ever.

What does it mean to be children of God? As we talked about last week, we are born of God—taking on His nature: righteousness, holiness, purity, love, etc. We are called to be righteous and pure just as Christ Jesus our Lord is both righteous and pure. As children of God, we are being conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. John says that one day we will be like Him at His appearing (2nd coming). Our bodies will be glorified and fashioned like Christ's glorified body. It is with this hope—that we shall be as He is—we purify ourselves.

What is hope? What does the Bible teach about hope? And how is this related to His appearing and us being children of God? These are the questions we hope to answer today.

- Theology of hope
 - Hope is fixed on God
 - Hope is a gift from God
 - Hope is revealed in Scripture
 - Hope is secured by the resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - Hope is confirmed by the Holy Spirit
 - Hope defends against Satan's attacks
 - Hope is confirmed through trial
 - Hope is the source of the believer's joy
 - Hope removes fear from death
- 2nd Coming of Christ
 - For unbelievers
 - Be ashamed at His appearing
 - Face judgment
 - For believers
 - Be with the Lord always
 - Our faith becomes sight

Conclusion

John says that those with this hope in Him and His appearing, this will purify them. Because we are meeting Him, because He is coming, this hope spurs us to live holy. This hope spurs us to good works. As children of God we have this hope—the blessed hope that we will do the things that are pleasing to Him.