

Sermon: Whose Child Are You? - A Paternity Test

Text: [I John 2:28 - 3:10 ESV](#)

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Introduction: John, in his writing to the church, insists a person can physically hear words and not understand, a person can physically see and be blind not only to a miracle, but the Lord of the universe. He insists we live either in darkness or light, and that we are either dead or alive. These antithetical comments help us understand whether we are headed to heaven or to eternal punishment. In today's text, we are given tests to determine who our Father (father) is.

There are tests our Scripture gives us to understand our spiritual paternity. If we are abiding in Jesus there will be:

1. A _____ and no shame (2:28-29)
2. A _____ of God's Love and we know Him (3:1)
3. A desire to be _____ like our Heavenly Father (3:2-3)
4. A contrast between children who practice _____ (3:4-9)
5. A "_____ " of righteousness (3:10)

Conclusion: Next week we will look at another antithesis prevalent in John's instruction to the church: "love and hate," and how they are recognized and lived out.

"...walking toward the light and away from darkness is an ongoing movement (*vocation*), until finally we come to the God who is light and in whom there is no darkness (*deception*) at all ([I John 1:5](#))." - Raymond Brown, p. 431

As God's children who have been given the Holy Spirit as a down payment until we make it into the presence of God, we will not live our lives perfectly. We continue to sin, but that is not our goal or desire. We want to do our very best for the one who loves us like no other.

I John 2:28-3:10 ESV

Children of God

2:28 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.

3:1 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.

4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. **5** You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. **6** No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. **7** Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. **8** Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. **9** No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. **10** By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.