



The Letters of JOHN
Walk in *The Light*

Children of God You Are Loved

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So Far in 1 John...

If you claim to be in Christ, you must walk as Jesus walked

1. Walk in the Light

- Light vs darkness – God is Light and in Him there is no darkness at all

2. Walk in Love

- Love vs Hate – Walking in the light is taking the path of love... there is no room for hate

3. Walk in Truth

- Truth vs Error – there is a battle going on for your soul and affections... lies are the enemy's main weapon

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1 John 2:28 – 3:10

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.

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.

1 John 2:28 – 3:10

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.

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1 John 2:28 – 3:10

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.

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Abide in Him (2:28, 3:6, 3:9)

We are his home and he is our home (John 15:1-11)

1. Awareness of his presence – he lives in you!

- When Jesus revealed himself to you and you were saved and adopted into his family, you were united with Christ.
- The living God took up residence within you!
- Jesus promised to be with you always (Matt 28)
- What does this look like?
 - Relationship vs religion
 - Recognizing God's delight in you changes everything
 - Seeing joy in what He has for you this day

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Abide in Him (2:28, 3:6, 3:9)

We are his home and he is our home (John 15:1-11)

1. Awareness of his presence – he lives in you!
 2. Engagement in his plans and purposes for you
 - Since we also live in Him, the call from Scripture is to live your life through him and for him (Gal 2:20)
- ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Abide in Him (2:28, 3:6, 3:9)

We are his home and he is our home (John 15:1-11)

1. Awareness of his presence – he lives in you!
2. Engagement is his plans and purposes for you
 - Since we also live in Him, the call from Scripture is to live your life through him and for him (Gal 2:20)
 - We strive to walk as he walked through the power of the Holy Spirit
 - We walk in the light, we walk in love and we walk in the truth even as Jesus did
 - What does it look like? Joyful obedience vs fear of punishment

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2 Reactions to Christ's Return

The set up for John's next point...

1. Confidence and excitement for those who abide in Christ
2. Shrinking away and shame for those who do not abide in him

A Father's Love (3:1-3)

1. God's great love for us

- NIV – “Lavished” upon us!
- God's love is always active – this is how we know he loves us
- But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom 5:8)
- For God so loved the world, that he gave... (john 3:16)
- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast... Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth...

A Father's Love (3:1-3)

1. God's great love for us

2. We are his children

- We have been adopted! (Galatians 4:4-7...)
⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

A Father's Love (3:1-3)

- 1. God's great love for us**
- 2. We are his children**
- 3. We are being transformed into his image**
 - When he appears, we will be made like him
1 Cor 3:18... ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
 - God is actively making you more like Jesus (sanctification)

2 Paths (3:4-11)

1. The Path of Righteousness

- The person who has been “born anew” into God’s family, walks in the light (path of righteousness)
- John is not promoting that a true Christian will never sin, but rather that his sin has been exchanged for Christ’s righteousness (our sins are “taken away”)
- Becoming a new person includes new desires, new behaviours, new thoughts and a new heart
 - i.e. the desire to obey Jesus and to please him with your life
- *John’s repeated warning: You cannot walk in darkness and claim to be in good standing with God*

2 Paths (3:4-11)

1. The Path of Righteousness

2. The Path of Unrighteousness

- You have intentionally chosen to walk in darkness – you have chosen to live in sin rather than righteousness
- The path of disobedience and rebellion
- “Children of the Devil” – Yikes!
- Reminder: do not be deceived by your own heart or the whispering of false teachers in your ears. Do not lie to yourself that you can willfully walk in darkness
- John’s strong words: You cannot be God’s child (a Christian) and “practice” a sinful lifestyle

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Whose Child Are You?

- John's very strong words of warning are not meant to make the children of God unsure of their salvation or standing with God
- John is very careful to reassure those who are in Christ and build them up
- If you are God's child, but have been walking in darkness, it's time to get things right
- If you are not God's child, today is the day you can change your path and your life forever!

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