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1 John 2:29-3:3

Children of God

by Bob DeWaay
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Born of God and Changed Lives

1John 2:29 (ESV)
If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been **born of him**.

- John assumes they know Jesus is righteous
- “If” . . . “Then” (Righteous lives of His people)
- Right living is the evidence of new birth, not the cause of it
- Being born of God is thematic in John’s writings

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Called Children of God

1John 3:1a (ESV)
See **what kind** of love the Father has given to us, that we should be **called children of God**; and so we are.

- “See” is imperative in the Greek
- “Kind” implies awe and astonishment
- This love is a gift from God
- The **love of the Father** is reality, not mere ideas for emotional therapy
- We are only called children because we are!

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Alienated From the World

1John 3:1b (ESV)

The reason why **the world does not know us** is that it did not know him.

- “Know” here is in a relational sense
- Because the world rejects God, it rejects His people
- Being children of God means having a totally different relationship to the world
- Jesus prayed for us as in this situation in John 17:11

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Range of Meaning for “Kosmos”

From the Theological Dictionary of the NT

- World I = The Universe, The Sum of All Created Being
- World II = The Abode of Humanity, The Theater of History, The Inhabited World, Place of Human Affairs
- World III = Fallen Creation, the Setting of Salvation History, The Human World that is Hostile to God

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Already/Not Yet

1John 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.

- We are confident about the future because of the glorified Christ
- We are different from the sinful world now and an even greater difference lies in the future
- Being like Him cannot imply deification

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God's Promises Sanctify

1John 3:3 (HCSB)

And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure.

- We have hope because we believe His promises
- We hope to be like Christ when we see Him and so live differently now
- Future hope provides present motivation
- False teachers dismiss future hope calling it "eschatological escapism"

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Implications and Applications

- Those born of God are alienated from the world
- True believers are children of God
- Use God's promises as motivation for sanctification

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The World Hates God's Children

John 15:18, 19 (ESV)

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

- "If" is a 1st class conditional (as is the case)
- "World" in this context means the *kosmos* in its sinful rebellion against God
- We cannot allow the world's attitude toward us to determine our loyalty to Christ

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Believers Are Children of God

John 1:12, 13 (NASB)

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

- Those who did receive, believe and confess
- Jesus is the only begotten Son, believers are sons by adoption
- We are children by spiritual rebirth

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God's Promises Motivate Holiness

2Corinthians 7:1 (NASB)

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

- Paul exhorts these Christians to separate themselves from the pagan religions of Corinth
- The promise to be God's unique people motivates us to live godly lives
- Idolatry defiles the person inside and out
- "Perfecting" means "to bring to its intended goal"

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