



Pray

How does remaining in him inspire you to pray?

How does the coming of Christ and seeing him as the glorified King of glory impact the way we pray?
(Consider Psalm 17:15 as you pray, *“But I will see Your face in righteousness; when I awake, I will be satisfied with Your presence.”*)

How can this passage impact the way you pray for yourself and others?

How does this passage move you to thank and praise God?



Lives that Follow the Father | 1 John 2:29-3:10
Study Guide 8 in 1 John Sermon Series on 02/21/2021



Introduction

Abiding/Remaining in Christ is a theme in this section. That is a tall task when we see our sinful desires at work. Yet, when we see the love of God (3:1), it can redirect our attention to the Spirit’s work to not only save us but continually sanctify us. Perhaps, you have heard of Thomas à Kempis or his infamous book, *The Imitation of Christ*. To imitate Christ reflects God’s holiness but apart from the Spirit’s work, there would be lawlessness (3:4). But praise God for his grace that has changed us to know him, love him, and love others.

Kempis wrote, *“What am I without grace, but dead wood, a useless branch, fit only to be cast away? Let your grace, therefore, go before me and follow me, O Lord, and make me always intent upon good works, through Jesus Christ, Your Son.”*



Overview

The children of God are captivated by the love of God – a love that enables us to call God Father, a love that encourages us to remain in Christ and pursue Him, and a love that shows the Spirit’s activity as we love others.

Context: John has described the schism in the church and the importance of remaining in Christ. Shortly after our passage of study, John instructs the church not to be surprised if the world hates them and to show God's love in action and in truth.

Structure:

- I. The Father's love makes us his righteous children (2:29-3:1)
- II. God's children possess final and ultimate hope (3:2-3)
- III. God's children remain in him and do not sin (3:4-6)
- IV. Our lives reveal who our father is (3:7-10)



Engage

- 1. How do you think you will react when you first see Jesus revealed in all His glory? What are some things that might cause someone to be ashamed at His appearing?

- 2. How does knowing that all Christians are God's children affect specific relationships in your life?

- 3. Why is it a blessing to know that believers will be conformed to Christ's image (1 John 3:2)? This brings hope in verse 3. How can this hope motivate you in your daily walk?

- 4. Eugene Peterson in the Message articulates verse 3 in this way, "All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own." How does the purity of Jesus affect the way we view ourselves now and in the future? God is not done with us. Read **Philippians 1:6**

5. John defines sin in verse 5. How does he define it? How does a biblical understanding of sin help us understand the gospel rightly?

6. Why do Christians still sin given verse 6?

7. How does Jesus' work destroy the Devil's work?

8. Why is external holiness a mark of regeneration if the new birth is a work in our hearts?

9. How are righteousness and love related in this section?

Verse to Meditate On: See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children—and we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it didn't know him.

– 1 John 3:1