

FAMILY RESEMBLANCES

1 John 2:28-3:10

3/21/04

Read the passage

Verse 10 is the summary of this whole section.

You and I belong to one of two spiritual families.

We either belong to God's family or Satan's.

We become children of God by being born again through faith in Jesus Christ. John 1:12

But a genuine "born again" experience makes a difference in how we live.

Our passage this morning gives us things that characterize and distinguish the true children of God from the children of the devil.

1. The Children Of God 2:28-3:3

a. True children of God can have confidence at Christ's coming. 2:28

- *Because they abide in Him v. 27*

- ◆ v. 27 says that true believers abide in Him. but v. 28 tells us to abide in Him.

- ◆ Both the divine and human part.

- ◆ cf Philippians 2:12-13

- ◆ True believers abide in Christ.

- ◆ cf 2:19

- *Need not shrink away in shame at His coming*

- ◆ as will the unsaved when Christ returns

- ◆ True believers won't be ashamed when Christ returns.

- ◆ **1 Corinthians 1:8** who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

◇ **Colossians 1:22-23a** yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach -- 23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel

◆ The unsaved will be ashamed

◇ **Mark 8:38** "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

◇ Those who will be ashamed when Christ comes will be those who were ashamed of Him in this life.

b. Those born of God practice righteousness 2:29

- They resemble their heavenly Father.
- True Christians are characterized by godly living.

◆ Though they are not sinless, they sin less.

c. They are loved by God. 3:1a

- God's love is seen in many ways, but the most notable is that He made us His children.

◆ It would have been great to be His servant, neighbor, or friend.

◇ But He made us His children.

◇ **Romans 8:17** and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,

◆ This is not based on our goodness, but on His love.

◇ Prodigal son.

- ◆ If you are a child of God, He still loves you in spite of your sin and failures.

d. They are misunderstood by the world. 3:1b

- **John 15:18-20** "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. 20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

- ◆ The world didn't understand Jesus.

- ◇ His life and words convicted them of their sin.

- ◇ **John 3:20** "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

- ◆ In the same way, the world today does not understand us and in fact hates those who stand for righteousness.

- ◇ They are upset if we do not do what they do. (Language, moral purity, entertainment, alcohol, etc.)

- ◆ The world doesn't understand Christianity and hates what we stand for.

- ◇ The reaction to **The Passion of Christ**

- ◇ Same-sex marriages

e. They will be transformed at Christ's coming. 3:2

- Philippians 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

f. Everyone whose hope is fixed on Christ purifies himself. 3:3

- The future return of Christ to judge and reign puts life into a different perspective for those who are true Christians.
- We don't live for the moment, but in light of His future coming.
 - ◆ When He comes back, what would you like for Him to find you doing?
- *True hope (faith) in Christ affects behavior.*

2. The Children Of The Devil 3:4-6

a. They practice sin. 3:4

- Sin is defined here as lawlessness.
 - ◆ A disregard for the rules and regulations set down by God.
- **1 John 5:17a** All unrighteousness is sin,
- **Romans 14:23b** . . . whatever is not from faith is sin.
- **James 4:17** Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

b. They do not abide in Christ. 3:5-6

5 He appeared in order to take away sins

- ◆ He came to save us from the penalty of sin.
- ◆ He also came to sanctify us and save us from lives of sin.
 - ◆ **Ephesians 5:25b-27** . . . Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her

glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

- ◇ **Romans 8:29b** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son
- ◇ **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 from the Lord, the Spirit.
- ◇ **Romans 6:1-14**
- ◆ God is like a sculptor who is shaping us into Christlikeness.

6a No one who abides in Him sins

Six Interpretations of 1 John 3:6,9

1. This refers to mortal sins but not venial sins. (But this verse doesn't say it refers only to some sins and not others.)
 2. God doesn't see the sins of believers. (But God does chastise sinful believers. Acts 5; 1 Cor 11)
 3. The new nature can't sin, only the old nature. (This passage says nothing about "old" and "new" natures.)
 4. John is just stating the ideal, not the real.
 5. This refers to deliberate sin. (But we do make choices to sin.)
 6. This refers to the persistent habitual practice of sin. (Yes, Greek present tense.)
- ◆ True Christians sin, but their lives are not characterized by those sins.
 - ◇ 1 John 1:8-2:1

6b No one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

- ◆ Past tense- has never been saved
- ◆ A person who claims to be a Christian but is living a life of persistent habitual sin has never truly been saved.

3. Family Resemblances 3:7-10

a. Satans's Family

- Satan sinned from the beginning v. 8
- His children take after him.

8 practice sin

- ◇ Christ came to destroy the works of the devil.
- ◇ The fact that the person continues to practice sin reveals that God is not at work in His heart.

10 does not practice righteousness

do not love their brothers

b. God's Family

- God is righteous v. 7
- His children take on His characteristics

7 practice righteousness

9 do not practice sin

- ◇ *because His seed abides in him. (This refers to the divine new nature. cf 2 Pet 1:3-4; 1 Pet 1:23)*

- ◇ *he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

4. The Big Questions

a. To whose family do you belong?

b. How can a person become a member of God's family?

- **1 John 5:1**
- **Galatians 4:4-5** But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.
- **Ephesians 1:4-7** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
- **John 1:12**