

Lesson 4

Small Group Discussion

1 John 2:28-3:10



Context of the Chapter

Recommended song for worship:
Redeemed - Big Daddy Weave



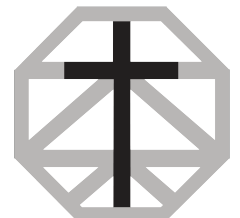
In the first one and a half chapters of 1 John, the apostle John makes the foundation of our faith clear. He emphasizes the importance of fellowshiping with the Person of Jesus Christ. Jesus was not a spirit, but a man who was (is) God in the flesh. Secondly, John emphasizes that the way we fellowship with God is through the Advocate, Jesus Christ. Jesus has paid the full penalty for our sin and offers hope in the midst of our guilt. Through trusting in the payment of Christ, by grace through faith, we come into relationship with God. A by-product of trusting the good news about Jesus is that we confess and turn from our sin. John makes it clear that true faith leads to life change by the grace of God; in fact, he uses this as a “test” to know false Christians/teachers from true followers of Jesus. Chapter 2 then concludes with warnings against false teaching and those who would lead us astray from our foundation in Christ.

Finally, **1 John 2:28-3:10** shifts from foundation, discerning our fruit, and warnings about false teaching to focus on the core of it all, our identity. This passage talks about our new identity in Christ and what that means for the present and the future. Again, the Apostle John makes it clear that we can be certain of our identity because God has changed our lives and given us hope. We used to follow the ways of the world, or in other words, we used to follow Satan. Now we follow or abide in the Word of Christ, which brings about a change of heart and lifestyle. There is great confidence in our new relationship with God!

Questions/Sermon Study

1 John 2:28-29

The Apostle John puts a great deal of emphasis on abiding in Christ. In fact, so much so that the fruit of abiding in Him brings evidence to us knowing Him. This not only brings confidence in our day to day lives in following Christ, but he also speaks of confidence in the day of judgment. Standing before God on judgment day is a fearful thing, but there is a promise for the one who has trusted in and followed Jesus. This promise is that you can actually have confidence and joy on the day of judgment as you stand before God, all because of the finished work of Christ and His power that changed you!



1. Are you confident? Below are some cross references about discerning the fruit of your life and judgment day.

Matthew 7:13-23

Hebrews 4:16

1 John 4:17-21

If you were to stand before God today and He were to ask you “why should I let you into heaven?” What would your response be? Would you be confident? Would you be at peace? Or would you be fearful?

Do not miss out on the great gift of walking in the peace, assurance, and freedom that is promised us by faith in Christ!

1 John 3:1-3

It is a great gift to be called a child of God! **Ephesians 2:1-10** states that by birth we are “children of wrath” or even enemies of God, but by His grace through faith our identity is changed, and we find ourselves as His beloved children.

2. Do you know you have a new identity? Do you see yourself as loved and cherished by God? Everything God does for us is out of love, even correction or discipline. All of it is to save us from our sin and bring us closer to Him. For the believer, there is no more anger or wrath from God, because it has all been taken by Christ.

Romans 8:28

Hebrews 12:1-13

John 3:16-21

Ephesians 3:14-21

3. Are you embracing this new identity in Christ? When we embrace our new identity with confidence based upon the work of Christ alone and not our own works, it gives us hope for eternity. It is important as a believer to live with an eternal perspective. 1 John 3 states that we will be made like Christ with new minds and new bodies. Below are some essential truths about living with an eternal perspective:

- **1 Corinthians 15:12-19** • *Following Christ does not always have earthly benefits, but our reward is in heaven*
- **Revelation 21:1-4** • *Our momentary pain will be washed away*
- **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** • *God knows how to bless us, the suffering will be worth it*

1 John 3:4-10

In this section, the apostle John continues to point out how we know whether or not we are following God or Satan, whether we are a child of God or a child of Satan. The Greek word for practice is “*poieo*,” which means to make, build, or continue something. This is not a one time action, but a continuous habitual behavior. This Scripture is clear that one of the evidences of being deceived is that we live a life of habitual sin and still claim to know God. Or in other words, we are building our life on sin, rather than in Christ.

The Apostle John has been clear that Christians will sin, and they have forgiveness for sin in Christ. However, he is equally clear that God’s grace, when accessed by faith, will produce life change. So the warning here is to not look at just one area of our life, or even one season of our life, but to truly evaluate our life as a whole. The question may look something like this, “Since professing to know Christ has my life trajectory and emphasis changed from building my life on sin, to building my life on Christ?” That may be small changes over a long period of time, it could be radical changes in a short period of time. Let's look at some Scriptures that explain this:

4. Am I building a life of sin or a life in Christ? Jesus states the same thing, that the children of the devil and the children of God can be distinguished by hearing God's Word and doing it or by hearing God's Word and rejecting it by their actions.
 - **John 8:31-47** • Identity
 - **1 Corinthians 1:18-31** • Understanding our Father's voice
 - **Mark 4:13-20** • Do not evaluate just one season, good or bad, but what does the "practicing" or "building" look like?
 - Do you live a life of hearing God's word and putting it into practice? Why did you give the answer you did?
 - It is okay to have confidence that we are "building" in the right direction! God wants us to have that confidence, because it is rooted in being empowered by His grace and forgiveness. He is glorified by us walking in the light and having confidence in Him.
5. Continuous sin can be a sign of taking the grace of God in vain (as seen in Matthew 7). However, it is sometimes hard to tell the difference between someone who knows God and is wrestling with sin, and someone who does not know God but professes to follow Jesus. However, the bottom line is that we do not want to be either! If it is confusing to us or to the world whether or not we are "in the light," we need to make some radical changes. It should be obvious! We want to be a child of God who can clearly be seen as walking in the light and has confidence before God. If we are stuck in habitual sin, today is the day to confess and turn to God for strength and take the necessary steps to find freedom!
 - **Hebrews 10:26-39** • *Do not shrink back but walk in the confidence and freedom available to you in Christ.*
 - **2 Peter 1:5-11** • *the process of growing*
 - **Luke 15:11-32** • *the process of returning*

Discipleship Focus & Challenge

We are a **church** on mission
 to raise up **WHO** disciple makers
SHARE THE GOSPEL
where we
live, work & play

A disciple's heart posture is to be a lifelong follower, student, example, and teacher of Jesus Christ.

Luke 9:23 - Follower
John 15:1-8 - Student
John 13:34-35 - Example
Matthew 28:18-20 - Teacher

Fall Campaign Challenge #4 - Abide in Christ!

1 John 2:28-3:10 tells of the great hope and assurance we can have in our salvation. When we dabble in sin, we can rob ourselves of this peace and assurance. That does not mean we lose our salvation, but it can mean that we lose out on the benefits of salvation on this side of heaven (peace, assurance, freedom from sin, etc).

This week, find some time to sit down and right out a two column list. Title the first column "Before Christ," and list out characteristics of who you were. List out the things that dictated your decisions and impacted the trajectory of your life. Now put another column, "After Christ," and in this column write down the characteristics of yourself that you have seen change since coming to Christ. Document how God is the main influencer on how you live your life. The change should be evident.

Before Christ	After Christ

In **John 15:1-8**, Jesus talks about the power of walking with Him, about the power of abiding in His grace. If we want to be His disciples, we must be connected to the Vine! (If you were saved at a young age, document the same changes seen in your life over time as you have been made more like Christ).

Memorize: 1 John 4:7-8

“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God.

Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.

But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”