

FIRST JOHN 2:28–3:10

“What love a person would have in his heart if he were to take a malicious enemy and say, ‘You will be my child.’ Only think, then, what it must be for God – the infinite and eternal Spirit – to say, ‘You will be my child.’”

C. H. Spurgeon

Big Point: Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, to take away sin, to reveal a pure and holy God, and to make us children of God.

Look - We are God’s children now (vv. 2.28-3.4)

- We are confident of this when and because we abide in him.
 - We will not be ashamed of the residual battle with sin.
- The love of God that makes us God’s children is something to see and glory in.
 - By seeing or beholding this, we know it is outside ourselves and a work of God because of his love
- Those who see Jesus and know him will be made like him*
 - Empirical evidence suggests that not everyone sees/knows Jesus
 - Those that don’t will despise and resist him
 - Those that do will purify themselves to be like him

Jesus does not treat symptoms (vv. 5-9)

- All sin does violence to God’s divine design, making it lawlessness.
- He takes away sin
 - He’s the only one who can because there was no sin in Him
 - Through propitiation he makes us sinless too
- The Works of the Devil
 - Sinning from the very beginning.
 - Anyone who would suggest you can continue to sin or live against God’s design.
 - Planting seed that grows against God’s design.
- Jesus Destroys the Works of the Devil.
 - Tills the soil of our heart, extracts the Devil’s seed
 - Plants God’s seed in our hearts*

Obvious evidence (v. 10)

- Whoever does wrong
- Whoever does right
 - Desiring holiness
 - Abiding in Him
 - Loving your brother or sister

1 John 2:28 - 3:10

Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

God's Children

²⁸ So now, little children, remain in him so that when he appears we may have confidence and not be ashamed before him at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know this as well: Everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

³ See what great love^[a] 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. ² Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he appears,^[b] we will be like him because we will see him as he is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself just as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who commits sin practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he was revealed so that he might take away sins,^[c] and there is no sin in him. ⁶ Everyone who remains in him does not sin;^[d] everyone who

sins^[e] has not seen him or known him.

⁷ Children, let no one deceive you. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. ⁸ The one who commits^[f] sin is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the devil's works. ⁹ Everyone who has been born of God does not sin,^[g] because his seed remains in him; he is not able to sin,^[h] because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ This is how God's children and the devil's children become obvious. Whoever does not do what is right is not of God, especially the one who does not love his brother or sister.

Footnotes:

- a. [3:1](#) Or *what sort of love*
- b. [3:2](#) Or *when it appears*
- c. [3:5](#) Other mss read *our sins*
- d. [3:6](#) Or *not keep on sinning*
- e. [3:6](#) Or *who keeps on sinning*
- f. [3:8](#) Or *practices*
- g. [3:9](#) Or *not practice sin*
- h. [3:9](#) Or *to keep on sinning*