

STUDY #6

1 John 2:28-3:3

John's Purpose Statement:

"¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

→ Review

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

→ Read 1 John 2:28-29

²⁸ And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

1. Review of the context: who are the "children" that John is speaking to?
2. What exhortation does John give in vs. 28?
3. Based on previous lessons in 1 John and the book of John, what do we know about what it looks like to abide in Christ?
Refer to the following verses:

John 8:31 "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples"

John 15:9-10 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love."

1 John 2:24 "Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father."

1 John 4:13-16 "By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So

we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”

4. For what reason does John tell them to “abide in him”?
5. Which coming of Christ does vs. 28 reference?
6. What does it mean to be “born of him”?

Also see the following verses:

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”

John 3:3 “Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”

1 John 5:1 “Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.”

1 John 3:9 “No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.”

7. How can we be sure that someone has truly been born of God? (vs 29)

→ Read 1 John 3:1-3

¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² 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. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

1. Here John references the Father’s love. How has God demonstrated His love towards us?
See also the following verses:

1 John 4:8-10 “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Romans 5:8 “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Ephesians 1:3-6 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.”

Ephesians 2:4-5 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved”

2. What privilege have believers been given because of God’s great love? (vs 1)
3. Knowing that John uses the term “world” with different meanings depending on the context, what does it refer to here in this passage?
4. For what reason does John say that “the world does not know us”?
5. At Christ’s appearing, what will happen to believers? (vs 2)
6. What is the result of those who hope in Him? (vs 3)

TEACHING NOTES

5 Characteristics of Genuine Believers:

- 1. They will abide in Him (2:28)**

- 2. They will practice righteousness (2:29)**

- 3. They will recognize the Father's great love (3:1)**

- 4. They will have hope of Christlikeness (3:2)**

- 5. They will purify themselves (3:3)**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How has this study on the characteristics of a genuine believer impacted, encouraged, or challenged you?

2. How are you faithfully abiding in Christ? If not, then what do you need to change?

3. Knowing that Christ's return is imminent, how does this affect your choices and decisions on a daily basis? Can you honestly say that you are eagerly and confidently awaiting His return?

4. Can you see evidence in your life that reflects you are being transformed into the likeness of Christ and striving for righteousness?

***Next week: 1 John 3:4-12**