



YOU ARE SO LOVED 1 JOHN 2:28-3:3

Background

Date: 80's Author/Reader: Apostle John/Circular Letter
Occasion: Firm faith against seductive false teaching
Theme: Live in the Light. Christ is the Light.
Tone: A father's heart to clarify, assure, gird, and guide

“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. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. 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. 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. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

(1 John 2:28-3 ESV)

The Birth—God's Act of Love

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12-13

The Song—Our Reaction to God's Love

“By God's creative act of love, we belong to God as surely and permanently as children belong to their parents... We do not simply look at a love that is external to us and marvel at its greatness; we know a love that resides within us.”

~Marianne Meye
Thompson

The Destiny—Our Response to God's Love

Going Deeper

(For individual or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read 1 John 2:28-3:3. How would you explain John's flow of thought?
2. What is the believer's confidence when Christ appears? Does this have more to do with us or with Christ? Why would this be important to know?
3. Read and reflect upon Genesis 2:25 and 3:1-24. What does shame look like? How do Adam and Eve deal with shame? How does God deal with their shame? How does the Genesis narrative help you understand Christ in 1 John 2:28-29?
4. How does the fact of John's writing verses 3:1-2 display knowing what God's love feels like? Have you known God's love this way? Give thanks to God for His love.
5. What is our hope as children of God? Is this sure or shaky? Why?
5. Compare 1 John 2:28-3:3 and 1 Peter 1:3-25. How do they complement each other?
6. Spiritual Exercise: John writes that God's love is “given” (1 John 3:1) to Christians in a unique way making us “children of God”. This new birth is a singular event, but experiencing God's “Father love” happens throughout our life as we receive this gift-love. Read Luke 15:11-32. Replace the younger brother with yourself... where or what do you need to leave in order to come back and experience anew God's amazing love as your Father? Return to your father. Purify yourself. Rejoice in His love.