



# Love

God & People

## What do You do while You Wait?

Leader Guide – July 5, 2020

28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. 5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. 6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. 7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister. (1 John 2:28-3:10)

### ICE BREAKER

What is the hardest wait you've ever had to endure? What is something you deem "worth waiting for?"

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) John shares in verse 28 that we wait with confidence. What did John mean by that? What gives us this confidence? How does this change our waiting when it gets really tough?

*John knew that Jesus had repeatedly declared that He was coming back. He is challenging us to remember Jesus' promise and to know that even in our waiting, Jesus is working all things for our good and His glory. This helps us keep the right perspective -> everything we face in this life is momentary in light of Jesus' victory and our relationship with Him. See also 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.*

2) In the first few verses of chapter 3, John deals with the identity of the believer. What does John say about our identity in Christ? How does it change how we wait and face hardships?

*John reminds us that we aren't just "called" children of God – we truly are!*

*Once we are in Christ, we are new creations and the old self is gone – see also 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.*

*This changes the way we wait/face hardships, because we know that we are not alone and this world is not our home. We are able to see everything we face here through an eternal perspective. Kevin said it well -> our primary identity drives our personal energy. When our identity is rooted in Jesus, our actions quickly follow.*

3) As Pastor Kevin has mentioned multiple times, John is pretty binary -> light/dark, good/evil, love/hate, etc. He continues that pattern in this passage when discussing the children of God and the children of the devil. How does John describe children of God and children of the devil? What do your actions say about you?

*Children of God -> remain in Jesus, have hope in Jesus, purify themselves like Jesus, righteous like Jesus, does not continue in sin, etc.*

*Children of the Devil -> continues in sin, does not do what is right, lives in lawlessness, etc.*

4) Pastor Kevin gave two main reasons why we “keep sinning” even if we’re born of God. What were they? Which one do you tend to fall into?

*Ignorance -> “We don’t know what we don’t know.” We’re not continuing in sin on purpose, but we still are nonetheless. Here, God corrects us gently and the Holy Spirit guides us back to Him.*

*Obstinance -> This is direct disobedience. “I don’t want to.” “I know/define what is right.” Here is where God disciplines us because we blatantly push back against Him.*

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

1) Where in your life do you need to move away from sin and toward God? Where do you need to confess -> repent -> repeat this week?

2) How can your group help you walk with Christ as you walk with them?