

WINTER SERMON SERIES

1 JOHN

LIGHT & LOVE

LIFE
GROUPS
WEEK 6 • FEB 11

THE DARKENSS

IS PASSING

AWAY

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT: Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER: What skill(s) do you enjoy getting better at?

BACKGROUND

In the last two verses of chapter 2, John changes the focus of his letter to remind them of who they are. He calls them *little children* (v. 28) and instructs them to abide in Jesus, so that with confidence they can appear before Him when He comes again. He encourages them to be righteous, as He is righteous, so that their works will be accepted when they appear before the judgment seat of Christ. However, there is a difference between their works being accepted, and them being accepted (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

John continues this theme in the first three verses of chapter 3, calling them the *children of God* (v. 1). They are different from the world, and as such the world does not know them. They are to remain pure in their hope in Him. With this focus on them being the children of God, John then changes his focus to those who are the children of Satan. John elaborates in verses 4-10 on how to discern who those people are. These Scriptures provide a clear test for determining whether one who claims to be a Christian has truly been born of God.

There is some confusion over verses 6 and 9 in chapter 3 due to attempts to translate the original text into the various translations that exist today. John was stressing that *one who abides in Him* and *is born of God* cannot consistently or habitually sin. The results of a 2023 Pew Research Center survey showed that 63% of Americans profess to be Christian. However, just as John was concerned for the Church in his time, the test of someone truly abiding in Jesus is to see if that person's life is defined by lawlessness or righteousness.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSE: 1 John 2:29

If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

READ: 1 John 2:29-3:10



HEAD LEVEL: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

1. What is the result of seeing Jesus as He is? Why is this the result?
2. What are two reasons Jesus appeared, according to this passage?
3. How do you know if someone is a *child of God* (3:1) or a child of the devil?

DEEPER DISCOVERY

- How does someone become a child of God? (See John 1:12-13.)
- How are His children described in these verses? (See Romans 8:12-17, Philippians 2:14-16, 1 John 3:1-2.)



HEART LEVEL: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. What does it mean that the world does not know God (v. 1)? What is keeping them from knowing Him?
2. What are the *works of the devil* (v. 3:8)? In what ways does Jesus destroy his works?
3. What does it mean to *make a practice of sin* (3:8) and *keep on sinning* (3:6)? How does 1 John 1:7-9 help us understand this phrase?



HANDS LEVEL: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

1. Reflect on any sins that have been a continual struggle for you. Consider John's comfort in 1 John 1:9-2:1. If you feel compelled to, share this with your group and take some time to pray over this together.
2. Chapter 3, verse 6 says, *No one who abides in him keeps on sinning*. How can you be abiding in Jesus in the upcoming days?



MEMORY VERSE: 1 John 3:3

And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)