

THE BOOK OF FIRST JOHN

GBC EQUIPPING HOUR | FEBRUARY 14, 2021



Know Your Roots – 1 John 2:28-3:10

PURPOSE: To know how to make the church sustainable for future generations with *orthodox* agape love.

2:²⁸ 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.**

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. ⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸ **Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning.** The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 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. ¹⁰ **By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.**

- 1 John 2:28-3:10 (ESV)

I. A Simple Question: “What Makes You -You?”

A. Occupation / Career / Field / Trade

- “Now that you’re done talking, let me tell you how _____ works.”
- Think about it: Where do you spend most of your time?

B. Gender / Race

- The Women’s Suffrage Movement.
- BLM.

C. Social Tribe

- Entertainment, sports, or fashion groupies.
- Trump.

D. Family

- “This is how the _____’s have always done it.
- Main mile markers of life: birth, graduation, marriage, and death are filled with family members around each one.

II. Same Question with Answers in *First John*

A. Spiritual Roots (1 John 2:29; 3:1; 3:7-9)

- A born-again Christian is “born of God” (cf. 1 John 3:9 with John 1:13) opposite those who have the Devil as their father (cf. 1 John 3:8 with John 8:44).

While he [Jesus] was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him.

⁴⁸ But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” ⁴⁹ And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰ **For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.**”

- Matthew 12:46-50

- On the other side of the spectrum, think about the force of “your momma is a _____” and “son of a _____” and “what would your mother say if _____?”

These phrases put you on edge because they, in some way, *touch upon your ‘sacred core.’*

- By God’s grace those of us who were once called “sons of disobedience” and “children of wrath” (Ephesians 2:2-3) can now be called “children of God.” The difference between the before and after isn’t only God’s choosing. It is also our *repentance*, i.e., our *gospel-transformation* (revisit Ephesians 2:3 “we all *once* lived in the...”).
- More than one way to go about fighting sin:
 - 1 : You don’t want to sin because of those bad feelings that come with it...so much lying can be hazardous on a marriage (etc.).
 - 2 : Hey. Stop and think. Who do you want to be identified with? The Devil and his lies? And, really, *who are you?*

B. Main Activity of Waking Hours (1 John 3:3-6; 3:10)

- Sin of *commission*: persistent unbroken patterns (3:3-6).
- Sin of *omission*: avoiding righteousness and charity (3:10) –as in the lack of providing help for needy brothers and sisters, just as serious a sin (see Matthew 25:40-46).

C. Upon Death or Rapture/Resurrection (1 John 2:28; 3:2-3)

- Being caught off guard by Jesus' fierce return.

OR

- Receiving Jesus in Heaven with delight and not shame.*

* Footnote on "shame" in 1 John 2:28: While the Bible's ultimate aim is lead people *not to shame*, but to grace and forgiveness, the Bible isn't totally removed from the shame-honor culture more familiar to the East.

Americans and Westerners largely do not understand this since we come from not a shame-honor culture, but from a comfort-liberty culture. The Bible does not adjust to this. Shame exists because the law of God is written on our hearts (Romans 1). Shame helps us avoid sin and even guides unbelievers to the saving knowledge of Christ who took our shame (all of it!) upon his shoulders. Even after conversion, there is an expectation of our honoring Christ in obedience to him, weighing in all that he has done for us.

The Book of First John Course Outline:

- January 3 - Introduction
- January 10 - Authentic Christian Fellowship / 1 John 1:1-4
- January 17 - The Confession & The Walk / 1 John 1:5-2:2
- January 24 - Triumph of Light over Darkness / 1 John 2:3-11
- January 31 - Rallying the Troops / 1 John 2:12-17
- February 7 - The Congregational Anointing / 1 John 2:18-27
- February 14 - Know Your Roots / 1 John 2:28-3:10
- February 21 - Practical Agape Love / 1 John 3:11-24
- February 28 - Spiritual Discernment / 1 John 4:1-6
- March 7 - Perfected Agape Love / 1 John 4:7-5:4
- March 14 - Orthodox Christology / 1 John 5:5-12
- March 21 - Peace (and War) unto Eternity / 1 John 5:13-21
- March 28 - Conclusion