

Whose Child Are You?

04/29/2018

Sunday AM

Scripture: 1 John 3:1-10, Galatians 6:1

Introduction

- This morning I would like you to ask, **Whose Child Are You?**
- For many people, the first thought that will come to your mind will be of your parents.
- I want us to look at this from the spiritual perspective, not the earthly.
- More often than not, children grow up to be a lot like their parents, wouldn't you agree?
- Examine yourself this morning and see if you have grown up to be like your spiritual "parent."
- If you are a born-again Christian, you should be showing a lot of qualities that imitate our Heavenly Father.
- If you are not showing qualities that imitate God the Father, then just **Whose Child Are You?**

1 John 3:1-10

¹How great is the 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. ²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. ⁴Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. ⁷Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. ⁸He 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. ⁹No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰This 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 a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother."

- V. 1 – We see right in this verse that God has "lavished" love on us and we are called "children of God!"
- **Is this title given to every single human being?**
- It is true that every human being is created by God and is thus His child, however in context here, "children of God" means something much deeper.
- V. 2-3 – A born-again Christian that has surrendered their life to God is what this passage is speaking of.
- Being a child of God is a process and every day we should be striving to be more and more like our Father.
- We will not fully realize who we are as God's children until Heaven, because of sin.
- However, that is why v. 3 talks about us purifying ourselves in order to be for like God.
- We purify ourselves by getting rid of the sin that is in our lives.
- V. 4 – This verse is plain, if you have sinned, you have broken the law and are lawless.
- V. 5 – Jesus died on the cross in order for us to not be mastered by sin any longer. He took away our sins.
- If we are striving to be like our Heavenly Father, this verse says, "And in him is no sin."
- V. 6-7 – These verses are hard hitting, but are overflowing with a truth we need to pay attention to today.
- **How many people does it say "live in him," yet keep on sinning?**
- **How many people have "seen him or know him" that "continues to sin?"**
- You must do right, in order to be righteous, just "as he is righteous."
- There is a difference in committing a sin, and continuing to sin.
- V. 8 – Now we begin to get into the contrast of **Whose Child Are You?**
- Surely no one wants to be "of the devil." However we are if we do what is sinful.
- Christ came to "destroy" Satan's work, not so that it would still proliferate the entire earth.
- V.9 – Is hard hitting just like v. 6. The Holy Spirit has given us a new life and we should not be able to "go on sinning" because we have been "born of God."
- V. 10 – Explains to us how we can know **Whose Child Are You?** If you do not do what is right and you do not have love for your brother, you cannot be a child of God. That only leaves one other choice.

- Now that we have clearly laid out what a child of God acts like, let's look at what we do with those that might be struggling with sin and not acting like their Heavenly Father.

Galatians 6:1

¹Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

- This verse is extremely powerful. It goes to the heart of what should be one of the missions of the church.
- **This verse gives us a clear understanding that sin should be addressed, doesn't it?**
- However, it is clear on how the sin should be addressed.
- "you who are spiritual" – is the Greek word *pneumatikos* which means someone who walks in such a way as to please God.
- So, if in fact there is someone who is caught in a sin, those that are walking in such a way as to please God, should "restore" the person gently.
- Other translations say, "restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness." (NASB)
- That "spirit of gentleness" is meekness.
- One of the roles and mission of the church is to help to "restore" people.
- **How could we possible help to restore people, if sin is not addressed?**
- At the same time, we have seen clearly that how we approach this restoration should not be with a spirit of demolition and destruction, but in gentleness as we seek to build each other up in love.
- With that being said, the last part of the verse is clear that one must watch out, because "you also may be tempted."
- Sin is like an infectious disease, you want to be very careful in how you come in contact with it.
- "Watch yourself" means to examine yourself and to be vigilant before, during, and after.
- **There comes a time when dealing with sin, we cannot help closely, we have to help from a distance.**
- You have to at times separate yourself from sin, but this does not mean you cannot still be a part of the restoration process.
- Be very vigilant in your life when it comes to sin and don't be okay with even the "smallest" of sin.
- A church here in Macon had this on their sign, "Watch out, baby sins grow up fast."
- **If you proclaim to be a child of God, act like it.**
- If you know something is sinful in your life, work quickly to remove that sin.
- **If you are comfortable and ok with continuing to sin, what does that say about your relationship to God the Father based on the Scriptures read today?**
- Hallelujah we serve a God of grace and mercy and if you will repent, He is ready to reconcile the relationship at any moment! He is awesome like that.

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

Heaven

Section 9: What will our lives be like?

What Will We Know and Learn?

What Will Our Daily Lives Be Like?