

Sermon Discussion Guide
“The Authentic Life” Series
Part 3: Sons & Daughters (1 John 2:28–3:10)

Icebreaker Questions: (*Option #1*): What’s a category that you may be more willing to spend money on than others? (e.g., clothes, health food, golf, travel, etc.) (*Option #2*): When you were a kid, what did you want to be (or do) when you grew up? Did you become/do that?

Prayer: Take a few moments at the beginning of your group time to pray for God’s presence and blessing on your discussion. At the end of your gathering, pray for one another and ask God to use your time together to strengthen your faith and make you more like Jesus.

Read: 1 John 2:28–3:10

Big Idea: Because believers are deeply loved children of God, they are called to live in a way that reflects their Father. John reminds us that abiding in Christ produces both confidence at his coming and a growing desire for holiness.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the most encouraging, convicting, confusing, or thought-provoking part of the sermon or Scripture reading to you this week, and why?
2. Read **1 John 3:1**. How do we “see” (or “behold”) the love of God? How can we do that practically? How have you personally seen the love of God? How does that change us/ how did that change you?
3. Read **1 John 3:2–3**.
 - a. What do you notice about the tenses in these verses (past/present/future)? How can this encourage us in our battle with sin and suffering?
 - b. What is the “hope” (or hopes - it might be more than one thing) John refers to in v. 3? How does this hope lead us to purify ourselves?
 - c. How often do you think about Christ’s second coming? What is most hopeful to you about it? How does this impact you day-to-day? How should it?
4. Read **1 John 3:6**. What does it mean to “keep on sinning” (in a way that indicates that someone hasn’t seen or known Jesus)? How can we distinguish a Christian who struggles with sin from an unbeliever who “keeps on sinning”?
5. **1 John 3:4–10** talks about pursuing holiness. What does it look like to pursue holiness and take obedience very seriously, without crossing over into legalism/works-based salvation?
6. Read **1 John 3:5 and 3:8**. What does it mean that Jesus “takes away sins”? What does it mean that he “destroys the works of the devil”? How should these realities shape us and our pursuit of holiness?
7. Where do you see the gospel in today’s passage? How does today’s text and discussion make Jesus/the gospel more precious to you?
8. What is one specific way you would like to apply today’s Scripture readings or small group discussion this next week?

Scripture Reading

1 John 2:28–3:10 (NIV)

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.

3 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.