

RIGHT EXPECTATIONS

1 John 2:28-3:23



SYNOPSIS

We started out our passage with a command to "continue in him" so that when he appears, we can be confident and unashamed. With this command is an expectation that Jesus is returning. And when we have the right expectation, we make the right adjustments for our lives. John points to a longing that we ought to have for the coming of Jesus and how we position our lives with that in mind.

We also see John boasting about the fact that we are children of God - that as children of God we are becoming more and more like Him. And with this belief that Jesus is coming and that we are children of God, we see John exhorting us towards holiness and towards love. He tells us that as children of God, we are becoming more like him in a life of holiness and more like him in the way we love.

We see that as children of God, we become holy because He is holy, that Jesus came to take away our sins, but not only to justify us in a legal sense, but to sanctify and purify us, transforming us into His likeness. In other words, we are conforming to His image in the area of holiness.

We also see that we are becoming like him in the way He loves. John gives the example of Cain and Abel and uses it as a counter-example to the love of Jesus. With Cain, we see that the epitome of hatred leads towards murder and the death of the "other" whereas with Jesus, we see the epitome of love that leads towards sacrifice and the death of "self." We are called to imitate and mature in this kind of love - where we become more and more like Jesus in how he loves.



OUTLINE

1 HAVING A RIGHT EXPECTATION AND BELIEF

Built into the command to remain in Him is the expectation that He is coming. That ought to shape how we live our lives. Also, we are to be firmly rooted in our identity as children of God that launches us towards becoming more like Him (as our Father in heaven). As we examine our expectations and beliefs, is where we are headed in line with what we expect and believe?

2 BECOMING LIKE JESUS IN HOLINESS

As children of God, we are becoming more and more like Him. John focuses on the area of holiness and points out that we cannot continue sinning without remorse and consider ourselves children of God. Because we are becoming more like Him, we are to be holy as He is holy. We are to put sin to death and also become more and more characterized by the fruit of the Spirit.

3 BECOMING LIKE JESUS IN LOVE

As children of God, we are also becoming more like Him in the area of love. Cain and Abel is the example of a seed of displeasure that explodes in hatred that leads to Murder. On the other hand, Jesus is the epitome of love that leads to laying down His life for His friends. We are to imitate and mature in that type of love - becoming like Jesus to those around us.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

What are you expecting at the end of your life? How does that shape the decisions you make?

2

Do you believe you are a child of God? How does standing in that identity help you live your life?

3

What practical ways can you put sin to death in your bodies? Do you see the Holy Spirit transforming you into Christ-likeness?

4

Do you find it difficult to love? Do you find yourself caught in (active or passive) hatred?

5

What does it look like to become like Jesus in the area of love for those around you?



BIG IDEA

We are to have a belief that leads to an action-packed love. In having the right belief, the right actions, the right posture (of love), we are to become more and more like Jesus. As children of God who are longing and expecting His return, we are to continue in maturity in our journey of faith - becoming like Him in holiness, and becoming more like Him in our capacity and ability to love others. Let's be steadfast in that as we press on in this lifetime.

