

## Conclusion: "Abba, Father."

- A. Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6
  
- B. Mark 14:36
  
- C. It isn't because of your conformity to the Father's will that you are now the children of God. No, it is because of the amazing love of the Father. And it is because we are now the children of God that we conform ourselves to the Father's will.

## LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Do you eagerly anticipate Christ's return? If He were to return today, do you think you would have confidence or be ashamed before Him? Explain.
- What is the basis for our confidence according to John?
- How do we see Christ now? How will that change when He returns?
- In what two senses did Jesus come "to take away our sins"? What danger might there be in under-emphasizing either of these?
- How does John (and Jesus in John's Gospel) tell us we can identify who our father is?
- Why might our eager anticipation of Christ's return lead us to purify ourselves? How can we know that this effort is not self-effort but God-empowered effort?

## Light, Life, Love – the Gospel we heard from Him

### *Who's Your Father*

Jerry Cisar — October 4, 2020

Text: 1 John 2:28-3:9

## Introduction

- A. *The God I Love*, Joni Eareckson Tada
  
- B. Our text today is about what it means to be a child of God. It is about what it means to be in a child in the family of God. Its privileges and responsibilities.

## I. Family Acceptance (2:28-3:1)

- A. Shame or confidence?
  - i. Living right isn't about getting the world to accept us.
    - John 15:19-21
  - ii. We are not accepted in the world, but we are accepted by the Father.
- B. We are accepted because of the amazing love of the Father!
  - i. Righteousness is the family likeness because He is righteous.

*When God called us to be His children, he also called us to a way of life.*

- C. Because of the Father's love, we can have confidence and not be ashamed on the day when Christ comes!

## II. Family Vision (2)

- A. "Loved ones" is family terminology.
  
- B. Why will we be like Him when we see Him as He is?

Bonhoeffer: "The image of the risen one will transform those who look at it in the same way as the image of the crucified one. Those who behold Christ are being drawn into Christ's image, changed into the likeness of Christ's form.... Already on this earth we will reflect the glory of Jesus Christ. The brilliant light and the life of the risen one will already shine forth from the form of death of the crucified one in which we live, in the form of sorrow and cross. The transformation into the divine image will become ever more profound, and the image of Christ in us will continue to increase in clarity."

## III. Family purity (3)

- A. Eager anticipation of his coming has a purifying effect.
  - i. 1 Peter 1:3
  
  - ii. What is hope?
  
  - iii. This hope, or eager anticipation, of that day produces something in us that will only increase when the reality arrives. It causes us to purify ourselves.
    - Phil. 2:12-13
- B. Jesus came to "take away sins."
  - i. Jesus came to take away the punishment for our sins.
    - a) John 1:29
  
    - b) 1 John 2:2

- ii. Jesus came to take away sinful behavior from our lives (4, 6)

## IV. Family Resemblance

- A. Children of God or the devil?
  - i. John 8:41-47
  
  - ii. Genesis 3:1-8
  
  - iii. John 10:10
- B. Whose seed remains in whom? (9)
  - i. "Everyone who has been born from God does not practice sin, since his seed remains in him, and he is not able to sin, since he has been born from God." (my own translation)
  
  - ii. "Seed" can mean *seed*: the source *from which* something is produced; or *descendent*: that which is *produced*.
    - a) Is it that, as the NIV interprets it, "No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them (lit. him); they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.
  
    - b) John seems to always use the word to mean descendent.
      - "Everyone who has been born from God does not practice sin, since God's descendants (that's us) remain in Him (God or Christ), and he is not able to sin since he has been born from God."
  
      - Colossians 1:21-23