



## SERMON NOTES:

- Romans 8:15, I John 3:23-24
  - I John 3 is an explanation of Matthew 22:37-40
  - Jesus is the love of the Father that has been given to us; the only way to the Father is JESUS (John 14:6)
1. Believing in Jesus makes us part of the Family of God, I John 3:1
    - a. Jesus is given to us, not owed to us by our works (Ephesians 2:8-9)
    - b. There, he says, you poor people that love me you sick people, you unknown, obscure people, without any talent, I have published it before heaven and earth, and made the angels know it, that you are my children, and I am not ashamed of you. I glory in the fact that I have taken you for my sons and daughters (Spurgeon), I John 3:2
    - c. Beloved only refers to those who have been adopted into the family of God, not all humanity
    - d. Believing in Jesus makes you a child of God NOW, not later
    - e. We have confidence that we will SEE and BE LIKE Jesus!
  2. Abiding in Jesus makes us pursue righteousness
    - a. Being a child of God is proven by practicing righteousness, not sin, I John 3:7-9
    - b. Notice the tense of the verb: Present, which means it is a common practice, not a committed practice. (I John 1:9)
    - c. Being a child of God means your desire is to be holy and your heart is changed to be like His heart (Psalm 51:10)
    - d. Our lifestyle must follow the confession of our lips if we are Christ's; otherwise, we are deceived devil worshippers!
  3. Loving like Jesus makes us love one another, I John 3:16
    - a. Jesus set the pattern for us to love others by His great love for us (John 15:13)
    - b. Since we are part of the family of God, we must love our family members (brothers and sisters in Christ), I John 3:18
    - c. Being part of the family of God produces actions, not just talk (I Corinthians 4:20)
- Conclusion: If you try to believe, abide, or love without Jesus, then your efforts are vain and prideful; however, if you believe, abide, and love in Jesus, then His love binds your heart to the heart of God...  
**YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD!**



## GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Read II Corinthians 6:18; Hebrews 2:11; Romans 8:16-17; I John 3:23-24. What does the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit say about believers being part of the family of God? Why is it important that the fullness of the Trinity agree on us being part of the family of God?
2. We have focused on fostering and adopting. Read John 3:1-21. Jesus is explaining being part of the family of God to Nicodemus, a Pharisee. Nicodemus was focused on what he could do to attain God and thought he had a right to it. We can think that we deserve certain rights due to our birth; however, the only way into the family of God is adoption. Read Romans 8:15. Fostering is loving on children to show them what a loving family looks like. This process should be what attending church should be. When people step into a church, they should see a difference and want to know more. The adoption takes place when that person chooses to believe Jesus himself/herself. What does your life portray that would draw people to JESUS?
3. Read I John 3:4-10. This passage is NOT saying that if you commit a sin then you are not a child of God. This passage IS saying that if you are a child of God, sin should not be a regular practice. Notice the end of verse 8 The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. Why would we want to give breath to the devil for even one moment by doing sin? The desire of your heart should be to breathe life (Jesus) and not death (devil).
4. Read I John 4:11-24; Genesis 4:5-10. How is Cain a negative example of loving your brother? How did envy, disobedience, lack of faith, hate play a factor in Cain's choices. Now read I Corinthians 13. How does a follower of Jesus put I Corinthians 13 into action towards brothers and sisters in Christ? How does I Corinthians 4:20 apply?
5. Read John 15:7; I John 3:21-22; Psalm 37:4. Upon first reading, it appears that we get anything we ask for; but this is not the case. Notice that each passage refers to walking in pursuit of God and doing His commandments. Many people get frustrated with unanswered prayers because of misinterpretation of Scriptures. The more we are like the Son and praying in the Spirit, then the will of the Father is prayed for; otherwise, we are praying for our own desires. How does this truth change your prayer life?