**GIVING LIFE TO LIVING SERIES**

**“Remembering Who We Are: Children of God”**

**Pastor Kevin Snyder**

**May 5, 2013**

**1 John 2:28 – 3:10 (NIV)**

**God’s Children and Sin**

**28And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.**

**29If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.**

**3 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. 2Dear 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. 3All who have this hope in him purify themselves, 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. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 8The 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. 9No 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. 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 God’s child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.**

**The set-up**

Encouragement and Exhortation

**Family Ties**

**“My Daddy can beat up your Daddy” image onesie on screen.**

**“My Daddy can beat up your Daddy” pink t-shirt on screen.**

**The Privileges of being God’s children (2:28-3:3)**

* Confidence with God
* Heirs of God’s inheritance
* 3 important ideas

1. It is by initiative and power we are his children.
2. Growth and maturity are the goal.
3. Being God’s children is evidence of God’s active and creative love.

**The Responsibilities of being God’s children (3:4-10)**

“**WHO** they are prescribes **WHAT** they ought to be.” Because we are God’s children, means that we have both privileges and responsibilities.

* Family Likeness

*“Here is the unequivocal antidote to smugness and arrogance, to any kind of posturing of superiority over non-Christians: it is our conduct that we make our claims to be God’s children believable. The integrity of our lives speaks more loudly than all the claims we can advance.”*

- Marriane Meye Thompson.

* A tricky passage (v. 4-10) We need to read each verse in the larger context.

v. 4 sin is in opposition to God.

v. 5 Jesus takes away our sin, as well as abolishes it. Jesus stands in direct opposition to sin.

v. 6 sin is NOT the identifying characteristic of those that live in Christ.

v. 7 don’t be deceived, faith without works is dead.

v. 8a the devil is in opposition to God, and tempts all to do the same. There is a war going on.

v. 8b Jesus came to destroy the devil’s work.

v. 9 the seed that God plants cannot be uprooted.

v. 10 Love and righteousness (doing what it right) go together

* So let’s live AS the children of God.
* *“The basis of hope of the children of God is not their own conduct, but the work of Christ on their behalf*” – Marianne Meye Thompson
* Jesus came in the midst of the mess.

*"If the idea of embracing the mess is uncomfortable for you, remember this: Either you were a mess, are a mess, or are one dumb decision away from becoming a mess."*

- Andy Stanley, “Deep and Wide”

**An invitation to be a child of God.**

**Encouragement**

You are God dearly loved child, who he wants the best and your future is secure and bright.

**Exhortation**

Jesus who is for you, can give you the strength and courage to live each day for his kingdom and his cause, a kingdom that can never be uprooted, is here and now, in the midst of the mess, not just something we hope for.