

# SERMON NOTES

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## **Family Resemblance: Loving the Father As Brothers and Sisters**

1 John 2:28–3:24 | Matt Green | July 21, 2019

### **The Blessing of Being God's Children (2:28–3:3)**

- Because we are God's children, we can look forward to Jesus' return with confident hope
- Righteous living demonstrates we are children of a righteous God
- We become God's children through faith in Jesus
- We are being transformed into the likeness of Christ, and will be perfected when we see the glorified Christ

### **Living As Children of God (3:4–7)**

- As God's children, we "purify" ourselves so that our lives are more pleasing to our heavenly Father
- As God's children we still sin, but our lives are not characterized by habitual sinfulness

### **Children of the Devil (3:8–10)**

- The devil practices sin and seeks death
- A life of habitual sin demonstrates we are children of the devil

**Brothers and Sisters** (in First Century Mediterranean Culture)

- Referring to fellow Christians as “brothers” and “sisters” is good, biblical language, but has become commonplace over time
- In the first century world, the closest relationships a person had were generally with their siblings from the same father
- Thus, the greatest loyalty was toward brothers and sisters, and the worst thing you could do was to betray them
- Jesus demonstrated the formation of a new family unit among those who do the Father’s will (Matthew 12:48–50)

**Good and Bad Examples** (3:11–22)

- Bad Example: Cain, who belonged to the Devil
- The Best Example: Jesus, Who gave His life
  - We, too, should lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters
  - This involves giving of our resources

**God’s Commandments** (3:23–24)

- Trust in Jesus
- Love one another
- Keeping these show we’re part of God’s family

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*Do I bear a family resemblance to my heavenly Father?*