

1 John 2:28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. v29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

v3:1 How great is the 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. v2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. v3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. v4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. v5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. v6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. v7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. v8 He 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. v9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. v10 This 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 a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

1 John 2:28-3:10

We are living in immoral times. More and more you hear of women who have children from several different men. Patricia and I were discussing this recently after watching a TV program where two people met for the first time and by the end of the evening were inviting each other to go to bed with each other. We have even got to the place where parents must do paternity tests to determine who is the biological father of the child.

I WONDERED IF THERE WAS A PATERNITY TEST TO DETERMINE WHO ARE GOD'S CHILDREN, WHO WOULD PASS THAT TEST.

When this letter was written, Cerinthus was teaching that, to belong to the "TRUE CHURCH", you needed to have certain "KNOWLEDGE" and perform certain "PRACTICES".

In this section, John reminds the readers

HOW YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE GOD'S CHILD

v10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are

YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE GOD'S CHILD IF:

I YOU ARE CONFIDENTLY LOOK FORWARD TO HIS SECOND COMING.

1 John 2:28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

Have you ever been caught doing something you know you should not have been doing?

Years ago, I was caught speeding. The embarrassing thing about it was, I had a car full of Pastors with me when it happened. One of them happened to be the then General Secretary of the Baptist Union, Rev Angelo Scheepers. We had been to a very difficult set of meetings at which I had been personally verbally attacked for things I had no part of doing. On the way home, I was angry and eager to get home. At one point, all the other pastors fell asleep, so I took that as permission to go a lot faster. Imagine my surprise when a Traffic Officer jumped out in front of me and pulled me off the road. Of course, all the Pastors woke up with all the noise.

I WAS CAUGHT RED-HANDED. I couldn't beg for mercy. I couldn't even spin a story. The questions started. What was my name? What did I do? (Pastor) Where had I come from and then where was I going? Imagine my embarrassment when I had to tell him we were all Pastors and we had been to a church Conference. I went with him to check the camera reading and handed him my driver's licence.

Then God saved me! Just as he had collected the Book to issue a fine, his fellow police who was operating the camera shouted to him to stop another driver who was going much faster than me. When the Traffic Officer jumped into the road, the other driver just rode right past him and accelerated away. He handed back my licence, gave me a verbal warning, jumped into the police car and chased after the other driver.

BUT IT DID NOT TAKE AWAY THE EMBARRASSMENT I FELT IN FRONT OF MY FELLOW PASTORS.

When driving the following speed limits, don't forget these hymns:

1. 60km - it is well with my soul.
2. 80km - God will take care of me
3. 100km - Guide me O' Thou Great Redeemer
4. 120km - Nearer my God to thee
5. 140km - This world is not my home
6. 160km - Lord I am coming home
7. 180km - ...soon and very soon, I am going to meet the king

WHAT WOULD I FELT LIKE IF JESUS WAS IN THE CAR WITH ME?

THE QUESTION IS?

WHEN YOU ARE DOING SOMETHING YOU ARE NOT SURE YOU SHOULD BE DOING, ASK YOURSELF, "HOW WOULD I FEEL IF JESUS CAME AT THAT VERY MOMENT"?

**YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE GOD'S CHILD IF:
II THE STANDARD YOU USE TO GUIDE YOUR ACTIONS REFLECT HIS CHARACTER.**

v29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

One of the rules/principles that is guiding the modern worlds thinking is:
“NOBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO JUDGE ANYONE ELSE”.

This sounds very noble and kind until you hear the reason why this rule/principle has been adopted.

When people say, “NOBODY HAS THE RIGHT TO JUDGE ANYONE ELSE”, they often add “YOUR TRUTH IS NOT THE SAME AS MY TRUTH”.

The sad reality is that this phrase, “YOUR TRUTH IS NOT THE SAME AS MY TRUTH”, is a modern expression of the lie the devil told Eve in the Garden of Eden when the serpent say, “DID GOD SAY.....?”.

We are living in the Era of Enlightenment when “Scientific Methods” are meant to be the guide as to what we are meant to believe. The “Scientific Methods” are meant to be based on EVIDENCE and PROOF.

While the Scientific World demands EVIDENCE and PROOF, **THEY DON'T APPLY THIS METHOD TO MORAL OR RELIGIOUS ABSOLUTES**

JOHN IS REMINDING THE CHURCH THAT TRUTH ABOUT JESUS CAN NEVER CHANGE

YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE GOD’S CHILD IF:

III YOU ARE GROWING IN YOUR DESIRE TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS.

v3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. v4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. v5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. v6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

When you become a Christian, the Bible describes you as a Spiritual Infants. Paul describes it like this in

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 v1 Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ. v2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. v3 You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

The writer of the Book of Hebrews describes it like this in

Hebrews 5:11-14 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. v12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! v13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. v14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

IF YOU ARE HAPPY TO CONTINUE LIVING A LIFE THAT DOES NOT PLEASE GOD, YOU ARE AT BEST, A SPIRITUAL INFANT.

A group of teenagers were enjoying a party, and someone suggested that they go to a certain restaurant for a good time. "I'd rather you took me home," Annie said to her date. "My parents don't approve of that place." "Afraid your father will hurt you?" one of the girls asked sarcastically. "No," Annie replied, "I'm not afraid my father will hurt me, but I am afraid I might hurt him." She understood the principle that a true child of God, who has experienced the love of God, has no desire to sin against that love.

CONCLUSION

WHY DO WE

- 1 CONFIDENTLY LOOK FORWARD TO HIS SECOND COMING.**
- 2 USE GOD'S STANDARD TO MAKE SURE OUR ACTIONS REFLECT HIS CHARACTER.**
- 3 GROW IN OUR DESIRE TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS.**

BECAUSE WE HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE DEPTH OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US

v3:1 How great is the 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.

1) It's an Unconditional Love

God doesn't wait for us to clean up our act before He starts loving us. He loved us before we even had a clue who He was.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

2) It's a Sacrificial Love

The world's idea of love is "what are *you* going to give *me*?" But God's idea of love is all about how much He wants to give to you.

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

3) It's an Unending Love

Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? v36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." v37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. v38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, v39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.