

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION**Children of God****1 John 2:28—3:10**

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!” 1 John 3:1

Day 1: Read 1 John 2:28.

1. Verse 28 contains the sixth occurrence of the Greek word translated “continue” (or “remain” or “abide”) in five verses. John is really hammering at this idea. What does this word mean to you?
2. What joyful truth about Christ are we reminded of in this same verse?
3. Jesus’ return is taken for granted by John and is part of the truth that his readers “heard from the beginning” and that he exhorts them not to let go of (2:24). How does guarding this truth in your heart help you to “abide” in Christ?

Day 2: Read 1 John 2:28–29.

4. At Jesus’ return, what will it be like for those who did not abide but who deserted him? (2:28; Mk. 8:38)
5. What can you be sure of regarding those who practice righteousness? (2:29) Why is this so? (2 Cor. 3:18)

Day 3: Read 1 John 3:1–3.

6. How far beyond a bare rescue operation is the love of God for us? (3:1)
7. Why does the world not recognize the children of God? (3:1b; 1 Cor. 2:8, 14)
8. What does John mean by saying that “what we will be has not yet been made known” (3:2)? (Consider 1 Cor.15:35ff)
9. Why do you suppose the full glory of our sonship is postponed and not yet revealed (3:2; Rom.8:19)? (2 Cor.4:7)

10. How do you think an abiding hope in Jesus' return can purify you (3:3)?

Day 4: Read 1 John 3:4–8.

11. John makes plain that sin is not just a human taboo or personal judgment but a real breaking of a divine law (3:4). What had to be done to make it right? (3:5; Gal.3:13)

12. Since the whole loving purpose of Jesus' coming was "so that he might take away our sins" (3:5), what is your confidence when you wrestle in prayer over your sins? (1:9)

13. John again emphasizes (as in 2:29) that you can know the righteous by their practices, and the unrighteous by theirs (3:7–8). Why is he hitting this point so hard? What lifestyle do you think the heretical teachers are up to?

14. What is the heretics' deception? (Jude 4) Where in your own life are you tempted to corrupt freedom in Christ into license?

15. Why is it both illogical and treacherous to continue in sin as if it no longer matters because we are adopted and saved? (3:5; Rom.6:1–3, 15–23)

Day 5: Read 1 John 3:7–10.

16. What does John mean by saying that "no one who is born of God will continue to sin"(3:9)? How are we sure that he doesn't mean sinless perfection in this life? (1:8–9)

17. What do you think is the difference between the sin of the person in 1:9 and that of the person in 3:8a?

18. Verse 8b says as clearly as any place in the Bible why Jesus became incarnate. Cite some examples of the "devil's work" that Jesus came to destroy—in your own life and in the world?

19. In the last verse of this passage, John drops the “L” word—which he will proceed to elaborate on in the next part of his discourse. Why do you think the practice of “love” is the clinching evidence of a relationship with God?