

Remembering Who We Are

1 John 2:28-3:10

“Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.” (1 John 2:28)

Remembering who we are: We are the children of God

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13)

“By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.” (1 John 3:10)

We have God, the Father, Who loves us 1 John 3:1-3

- Our identity should be grounded in the Father’s love
“See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.” (1 John 3:1)

We have God, the Son, Who died for us and is our Advocate 1 John 3:4-8

- Jesus appeared to take away sins (1 John 3:5; 1:8-9; 2:1-2; 5:16-17)
“You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.” (1 John 3:5)

“And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.” (1 John 2:1-2)

- Jesus appeared to destroy the works of the devil
“The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8)

We have God, the Spirit, Who lives in us and helps us 1 John 3:9-10

- The Spirit of God compels us to live into our new nature 1 John 3:9
“No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” (John 3:6)

“...for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.” (1 Peter 1:23)

Old Nature	New Nature
“our old man” (Romans 6:6)	“the new man” (Colossians 3:10)
“the flesh” (Galatians 5:24)	“the Spirit” (Galatians 5:17)
“corruptible seed” (1 Peter 1:23)	“God’s seed” (1 John 3:9)

Resemble Him

“By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.” (1 John 3:10)

Digging Deeper: The Full Spectrum of Managing Sin

“Don’t sin. Stop sinning. Do not practice sin.” To what end? From my earliest memories, sin was painted as the “boogie man” that had to be avoided. There became this balance, a scale constantly measuring my standing with God. If I sin more, God loves me less. If I sin less, God loves me more. The goal, it seemed, in the Christian life was to get God to love me more. If the scale could somehow just balance enough to where God loved me more on the day that I die, I could make it into heaven. In the complicated formula of sin management you could also throw in good works as a counter balance. If I could offset my sin with good and hearty “Christian performance,” perhaps God would accept me.

This playing with the balance of the Christian life at times can cause anxiety, fear, despair and exhaustion. It’s a lot to keep up with. It is a lot to manage. Where it has left many people at moments is thinking that heaven can become a divine *craps*shoot. We have heard this word before, but I actually looked it up today. Here’s a description:

Craps is a game in which players make wagers on the outcomes of rolls of dice. Because dice tumble randomly and the outcome is not predictable, craps is a game of chance. From this we can infer the meaning of the metaphorical term crapsshoot - that is, a situation whose outcome is not predictable. (Source: grammarist.com)

Many people who are called “children of God” live without the full assurance of their own salvation. Eternal life is “a situation whose outcome is not predictable.” John writes this epistle to counteract this line of thinking. *“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life”* (1 John 5:13). Our defaults lie in one of two areas: (1) we go lukewarm on sin and the damage that sin has on our lives as the children of God, we coast or become indifferent to whether or not we are holy or worldly; or (2) we go to a place of unworthiness and despair, wondering if your righteousness, love for people and fight against sin will ever be good enough.

Wrestle through the questions below individually and in community to dig deeper into the promises of God and your standing as a son or daughter of the King. Remember: “This is the promise which He Himself made to us: **eternal life.**” (1 John 2:25)

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. It is clear that no Christian is sinless, but God expects a true believer to sin less. What does that mean?
2. How does knowing that God deeply loves us motivate us to live a holy life?
3. When we say, “Christ not only died for me, but I died with Christ,” what does that mean?
4. Where do you find yourself on the spectrum of going lukewarm on sin verses fighting despair that you will ever be good enough? How does this impact your assurance of eternal life?
5. Read this verse and consider what role Jesus being your Advocate has played in your life. *“And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”* (1 John 2:1-2)

Next Steps:

1. **Get involved in helping others in their assurance of eternal life** by serving in Everest VBS. There is no better place to remind yourself that you are a child of God by serving and working with the children of God, helping our next generation in the very beginning of their spiritual journeys. **Register to volunteer at calvarylife.org/vbs or contact Pastor Matt Davis at mdavis@calvarylife.org or 714.550.2371.**
2. **Take some first steps toward spiritual maturity** by getting involved in a discipleship relationship. This would be a one-on-one set of meetings with a mature Christian who will walk with you for a season to help you work through areas of spiritual maturity and growth. **For more info, contact Laura Copeland, Grow Ministries Director, at lcopeland@calvarylife.org or 714.550.2398.**
3. **Connect in a LifeGroup** for support and encouragement to grow in your faith with others. LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. There are many LifeGroups available on Calvary’s campus and in homes across Orange County. Learn more at calvarylife.org/lifegroups