

NCC Life Group Devotional

Read—1 John 3:1-10

God's Children

We are called God's children. When you try to wrap your mind around the fact that the Creator of the universe choose us to be in His family, it can be mind-boggling. And because He wraps us into the folds of His loving arms, the world will not always recognize or acknowledge us. As believers, we have been set apart and are preparing for heaven. This is a foreign concept to those who do not believe and choose to hold on the world.

Our hope is now in Jesus Christ the perfect, sinless sacrifice who paid the final penalty for our sins on the cross. We must walk by faith and live by hope and as a follower have a sincere interest in the Savior's obedience and His sufferings. It is this interest that will draw us to Him and give us the desire to be like Him. That is our calling, but we must decide to associate with the King and Him alone. Once the eyes of our heart are opened, we see His holiness and therefore the ugliness of our sin.

The sin in our lives is a result of the devil's work. Christ came to destroy Satan as John states in verse 8. That consistent, habitual sinning that takes place in our lives is a result of Satan's power and our broken fellowship with God. Once we acknowledge and agree with Him that we've sinned, we are brought back into a right relationship with our Savior. John clearly points out that the love of God cannot be in us if we continue to sin without repentance.

We should stand each day in amazement of God's love and forgiveness. Once God begins to change us on the inside, we can no longer be content to go on sinning. We must bow before Him; confess; turn from sin; embrace Christ as our hope. As we walk in that frame of mind, His blood will cleanse us and make us whole once again.

Group Discussion

1. When John says we are “born of God” in verse 9, what is He referring to? Look up the following verses: Eph 2:10; 4:24; Jer 24:7; Eze 36:26. How is this referred to in these 4 verses?
2. Do you believe you need to understand God as a destroyer as well as a Savior?
3. Share some ways God has lavished His love on you.
4. What sins have you overcome that are no longer a part of the new you?
5. This passage states that we cannot continue to live in sin. How does 1 Peter 1:2-4 describe how we do this?
6. Are there areas of discontent in your life? If so, how you tie these back to sin?
7. What does 2 Timothy 2:21 say about how will be used if we cleanse our hearts? And what are we to pursue in verse 22?

Life Application

1. Have you conducted yourself recently in a way that would be very evident to those around you that you are a child of God? If so, describe. If not, do you think you blend too much?
2. Have you ever commented that your children are becoming a lot like you? Children often imitate their parents as we should imitate our Father. What areas of your life do you need to confess, so you can be more like Christ?
3. Quietly pray Psalm 51:10 to God right now and allow Him to reveal the unclean parts of your heart.
4. If purity is what we’re after, what does that look like on a daily basis?
5. Is there a brother or sister you are not loving like you should? If so, how can you show God’s love to them this week?