

1 John 3:1-7

Read: 1 John 3:1-3

1. What kind of love has the Father given to us? Romans 5:8 “in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
2. From the point of conception on, we are always somebody’s children- you never age out of that title. In the same way our being God’s children is not an issue of chronology but of the grace that allows the Spirit to bring faith forward within us.
3. Families often have a “shorthand” for speech, or “inside stories” that the rest of the world doesn’t quite get. For the family of God, it is language, action, attitudes that are shaped by the Father but unknown to those who do not know him.
4. John uses this children imagery in a couple of ways (see 2:1). What is he trying to teach/indicate in this multi-faceted imagery? Note: he uses children throughout his Epistle and reserves the use of the word “son” for his Gospel.
5. In Scripture, this is the constant tension of “now and not yet” that is felt, most acutely, in this Easter season.
6. What about us will be like God?
7. We are instructed to make ourselves pure; how does this happen? What is the source of our purity?

Read: 1 John 3:4-7

8. What is John trying to get at with the phrase “practices lawlessness?”
 - a. Lawlessness is “the willful rejection of an external standard.”
 - b. In the background is the idea of a lifestyle that would embrace the rejection of God’s standards
9. John says that no one who abides in Christ keeps on sinning. Yet we do because sinless perfection is not possible. How does repentance play a role in this reality?
10. What is the deception placed before the children of God?