1 John 2:28-3:10
Living As A Child Of God

Pray for your time together as a group.

? Think of a tradition that your family had or some quality they had that made them unique when you were growing up. What was that tradition/quality? (Feel free to use as zany an example as you can think of!)

1 John 2:28-3:10 (NIV)
28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.
29 If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

1 See what great 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. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. 5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. 6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 8 The one 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. 9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 10 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 God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

? John addresses the people he is writing to as children of God (2:28 - 3:2). According to John 1:12-13, how does one become a child of God?

> **John 1:12-13 (NIV):** "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— [13] children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

? In our current culture and even more so in John's culture, people think or thought of children as inheriting certain traits, rights, privileges, or material items from their parents. What does John say that we inherit as children of God?

? How does the notion that you are a child of God change the way you view yourself?

? In comparison to the traits inherited by the children of God, how does John say you can recognize children of the devil?

It would be quite mistaken to infer that John ultimately *grounds* Christian assurance on personal conduct… but John insists there is another element in Christian assurance, the evidence of a transformed life. Such evidence provides not the ultimate ground of confidence (that is reserved for Christ and his cross), but a subsidiary appeal to the confirmation of a life transformed by the gospel, since it is unthinkable that a life that has known the power of the gospel should not have been changed by it."
-D.A Carson, *New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*

? What examples of lawlessness do you see in our culture or our personal lives today?

? This comparison between children of God and children of the devil (verse 10) creates a tension because we know that even those who believe in Christ still sin. How does what John 1:12-13 says about how we become children of God reconcile the tension in this comparison between children of God and children of the devil?

? If John is not saying that we lose our status as children of God when we sin, why do you think he draws out the comparison between children of God and children of the devil?

For Discussion and Accountability

? In what ways are you not acting like a child of God in your day-to-day life right now?

? How can we help you bring your actions in line with your status as a child of God?