

INTRO

- Tell of a time a future goal/reward helped motivate and shape your behaviour.

READ

1 John 2:28—3:10

REFLECT & RESPOND

Today's text is all about how the authenticity of our faith is revealed in our day to day life. John writes to oppose the false teachers views on Christ and the Christian life. Specifically, it seems they disconnected how we live with what we believe. John is pretty clear that how we live matters and is another test of authentic faith:

“By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.” (v10)

Qu: as a Christian, in what way/s has it been challenging to connect your faith to your everyday life?

John isn't just interested in us living a moral or ethical life, but in our motivation too. The key for John comes down to “abide/remain in him”:

Life in Christ produces a Christlike Life.

1. Remain in IDENTITY

As Christians, God is our Father and we are his children. Jesus became something he was not (taking on our sin) so that we could become something we were not (2 Cor 5:21; Jn 1:12-13). In essence, John exhorts us, “This is *who* and *whose* you are—now live like it!”

Qu: Is it hard for you to receive God as your loving Father? Why/why not?

2. Remain in HOPE

What we believe and envisage about our future impacts our today (v3). John reminds us that our destiny is to become more like Christ and one day at his second coming, our new nature as children of God will be fully realized. So we can choose to align or oppose our present lives with who we are becoming.

Qu: how should the future return of Christ help motivate us in the present? Does it motivate you? Why/ why not?

3. Remain in CONFIDENCE

Lastly, John reminds us to have confidence in what Christ has done on our behalf, specifically in dealing with our sin and Satan's work. Jesus takes sin seriously (v5, 8) because it is *the* root cause of all our problems both cosmic and personal. Jesus' forgiveness of your sins is meant to lead you into freedom *from* sin (practice righteousness).

Qu: what happens when our day-to-day experience betrays these truths and we continue to struggle with sin? How do you reconcile that? How should we reconcile that (see 1 Jn 1:8,10)?

Don't misread John; he's NOT saying your behaviour earns your salvation. Rather, your behaviour *reveals* the genuineness of your salvation. The more we remain/abide in Jesus, the more incompatible sin will be for our lives. Jesus is both our motivation and means for living right:

Life in Christ produces a Christlike Life.

PRAY

- Pray that your group would be encouraged and empowered to abide in Christ.
- Pray that each one would experience God's love, forgiveness & freedom in greater measure