
Children of God

Introduction

1. **Everyone of us who have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins should be so happy to be called “Children of God!”**
2. **In this morning’s lesson we will examine from scripture 1) who are the children of God, 2) who are not the children of God, 3) what it means to abide in Him, and 4) what is righteousness.**

1 John 3:1-10

3. **Verse 2 of our reading talks about the “children of God.”**

Who Are the Children of God?

1. **The children of God are those that exhibit faith in Christ Jesus.**

Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God **through faith in Christ Jesus.**

2. **Those that are peacemakers.**

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

3. **Those that are children of the resurrection.**

Luke 20:36 **nor can they die anymore,** for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

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- 4. Those of us that are children of God should have:**
- A. A hope fixed on God - Verse 3**
 - B. Striving to be pure, as he is pure - Verse 3**
 - C. No practice in sinning - Verse 4**
 - D. A willingness to abide in him - Verse 6**

Who Are Not Children of God?

- 1. Those that are children of the flesh are NOT children of God.**

Romans 9:8 That is, those who are the children of the flesh, **these are not the children of God**; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.

- 2. Those that do not practice righteousness**

1 John 3:10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: **Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God**, nor is he who does not love his brother.

What Does it Mean to Abide in Him?

1 John 2:6 He **who says he abides in Him** ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

- 1. Can we say that we truly practice this in our daily lives?**
- 2. Back to 1 John 3:7, this verse tells us that the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.**
 - A. What can we learn about this word righteousness?**

What Is Righteousness?

1. Righteousness is — belief in the Lord.

Genesis 15:6 And he **believed in the LORD**, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

2. Righteousness is — doing all things God commands of us.

Deuteronomy 6:25 Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are **careful to observe all these commandments** before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us.'

3. Righteousness is — speaking the truth.

Proverbs 12:17 He who **speaks truth** declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit.

4. Righteousness is — life without death.

Proverbs 12:28 In the way of **righteousness is life**, And in its pathway there is no death.

5. Righteousness is — better than many things without it.

Proverbs 16:8 Better is **a little with righteousness**, Than vast revenues without justice.

- A. We should learn that no matter how much it may cost us in time, money, friends, family, etc, it is better to do the right thing — than to jeopardize our soul over much that is not right**

6. Righteousness is — not to be turned away from.

Ezekiel 18:26 When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies.

Ezekiel 33:13 When I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, but he trusts in his own righteousness and commits iniquity, **none of his righteous works shall be remembered**; but because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die.

7. Righteousness is — to be pursued.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, For they shall be filled.

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

8. Righteousness is — obedience to Christ.

Romans 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

9. Righteousness is — walking after the spirit.

Romans 8:4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh **but according to the Spirit**.

10. Righteousness is — not linked to unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 6:14

Difficulty in Practicing Righteousness

1. Understanding what righteousness is and the necessity to make sure we are righteous before God, then why is it so difficult to be a child of God and to practice righteousness?

A. In our reading of 1 John 3:1 we see that the world does not know us, because it did not know him.

1) The world tries to persuade us to become as one of the world — and because we are a minority it is a constant battle to remain faithful to God.

B. This is why it is so vitally important for us to abide in God's word and to gain faith. **THE faith must become OUR faith!**

1) When we are rooted and grounded in the faith we become very loyal to God and will remain righteous no matter what! YOU'VE GOT THIS!

1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. **"AND DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THEIR THREATS, NOR BE TROUBLED."**

2. Have you ever been accused of being somewhat special or peculiar? If so, be thankful – because you are doing the right thing.

Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own **special people**, zealous for good works.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own **special people**, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Conclusion

1. **Children of God are faithful in Christ Jesus.**
 - A. **Peacemakers, children of the resurrection, and they practice righteousness which includes:**
 - 1) **Belief in the Lord**
 - 2) **Doing all things God commands for us to do**
 - 3) **Speaking the Truth**
 - 4) **Obedience in Christ**
 - 5) **Walking after the Spirit**
2. **Children of God are not of the flesh, nor do they practice unrighteousness.**
3. **Do you believe in Jesus Christ?**

Romans 10:4, 10

 - A. **If you do, and you have not been baptized into Christ, why not come this morning and practice righteousness, to be saved through obedience in baptism and become a child of God!**

