



Part 7 of Luminous

Sunday, November 5, 2020

Relational confidence builds over time, and the relational expectations change as you get to know someone—the same way with God as we draw closer to Him.

Setting the Scene: (1 John 2:28-29)

- John's goal is that we are confident in our faith.
- Biblical Hope is certainty in the promises of God.
- Christ-followers bear the image of Christ and will share in His glory.
- The relational reality of being a child of God is that we understand that sin hurts our relationship with our Heavenly Father. The struggle of sin is real in the Christian life. We cannot ignore it. We must deal with it radically.

1. Decide not to let sin rule your life. (3:1-3)

The exclamation mark!, also sometimes referred to as the exclamation point, especially in American English, is a punctuation mark usually used after an interjection or exclamation to indicate strong feelings or high volume (shouting), or to show emphasis.¹

- The reality that God desires and deep and personal relationship with you is fantastic and beyond comprehension. When you experience this, you do not want to hurt your relationship with God.
- What comes to your mind as you read of God being our Father?

⁹“You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? ¹⁰Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! ¹¹So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him. Matthew 7:9-11

- Our self-worth is not based on whether the world loves us as its own but based on the fact he loves us and calls us His children.

⁹That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9

If we set our minds on the confident basis of God's promise, we will feel differently, and this will renew the character of our living. “Everyone who has this hope in him [Christ] purifies himself, just as he is pure” (v. 3). “Purity” (hagnos) occurs only here and refers to the absence of any stain.²

⁸God blesses those whose **hearts are pure**, for they will **see God**. Matthew 5:8

- Those who are in Christ should be appalled by their sin. The Spirit of God gives us a new nature and new relational reality in which we are part of the family of God

⁸ And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. ⁹ We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. ¹⁰ When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. ¹¹ So you also should **consider** yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. Romans 6:8-11.

¹²**Do not let sin control the way you live;** do not give in to sinful desires. Romans 6:12

- When you have a relationship with Jesus Christ, you can live free from the power of sin. You are not the person you used to be. Why would you continue to live the way you used to live?
- Sin does not have control over where you go when you die.
- Sin does not have to control what you do while you live.

2. Declare sin is not your master. (1 John 3:4-6)

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exclamation_mark#:~:text=The%20exclamation%20mark%2C%20!%2C%20also,%2C%20or%20to%20show%20emphasis.

² Burge, G. M. (1996). [Letters of John](#) (p. 147). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

¹⁴ **Sin is no longer your master**, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace. Roman 6:14

- When you say yes to sin, you are letting it reign over you.
- When you wrestle with sin, which side of the argument do you identify with, excuse, or acknowledgment? You have a choice; you can say no to sin.
- Christ came to destroy the work of sin,
- Never become indifferent towards sin. (Not making a practice of it)

My moral impulse to do right, to obey God's Word, to live an ethical life, is the first by-product of divine rebirth ³

John is referring to the active role that a Christian plays in the effort to overcome sin, but his statement also points to an ultimate reliance on Christ, the Pure One, to accomplish this effort.⁴

3. Devote your body to God. (1 John 3:7-10)

3:8 who practices sin Indicates a person who continues to unrepentantly sin and is openly fine with doing so.⁵

- Christ came to destroy the works of the devil. The devil comes from the Greek word "diablos"; it means "penetrating through." He repeatedly throws accusations at the mind-striking again and again until it penetrates the mind.

²⁰ But that isn't what you learned about Christ. ²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.²⁵ So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. ²⁶ And "don't sin by letting anger control you."^[a] Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a **foothold to the devil**. Ephesians 4:20-27

¹³ Do not let any **part of your body** become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Romans 6:13

- How we love God and others matters.

⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. Colossians 3:4

- You can live a life in which you offer every part of yourself as an instrument of righteousness.

Last Thoughts:

- Seek the power of the Holy Spirit and God's Word.
- Stay away from tempting situations.
- Seek the help of the body of Christ—be open to their willingness to hold you accountable and to pray for you.

May our prayer be, "Jesus live your life through me."

³ Burge, G. M. (1996). [Letters of John](#) (p. 153). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

⁴ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (1 Jn 3:3). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

⁵ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (1 Jn 3:8). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.