

# Dear Children you have been born of God

SBC 1/11/15 and 8/11/15

## Nature vs Nurture

Explain the debate = this passage speaks to these 2 areas

- Particular social behaviours/practices
- Even in faith people argue that we are merely brain washed (nurtured to believe) but we would argue that we have been created with this need for God...its in our nature.

John writing to correct threats to our nature and to the necessary nurture.

- Denial of Son of God
- Indifferent attitude to sin
- Differing criteria

## Born of God

Through LAVISH LOVE of God.

His Initiative and by his power.

[Prodigal Son](#) – servant/slave mentality

[Xmas at smedleys](#) – feeling like an imposter/orphan...nice to let me in!

Not orphans/not hired help but children of God NOW !!!

YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD. Regardless of what the world says/thinks.

## Nature of God

[Brad Ashmore](#)

[Annie](#)

Nature of Christ

Righteous

Pure

In Him is no sin

Purpose = take away our sin!

How could we possibly claim to be a child of God if we are indifferent to sin!? GOD'S SEED

In fact John says someone who willingly keeps on sinning is of the devil

(note: is of the devil, not born of the devil – created by God)

Jesus = no sin VS devil = sinning from the beginning. To keep on sinning is a clear indication you do not know God or experienced God.

Our nature as children of God

1. To do what is right...not lawlessness but obedience.
2. To love brothers and sisters...our birth as children of God is because of His lavish love ("God is love" comes in next chapter) [Tony Abbott's remarks??](#)

## Nurture this Nature

[Dad's nature vs ??? nature.](#)

It's not just a matter of nature...what we nurture can also become part of our nature.

That's why John warns "do not let anyone lead you astray"!!

[Levi's toilet training = nurturing the nature of human body](#)

Born of God = not continue to sin//cannot keep sinning?????

- Must be read in light of rest of letter (1:8 – we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves)
- Refers to the spirit within which we live...lawlessness vs obedience//selfishness vs love.

Nurture nature by living according to this nature:

Imagine if Zaccheus had met and dined with Jesus, expressed his devotion and then return to collecting taxes at the same inflated rates.

Imagine if Paul had his Damascus rd exp and then went about persecuting Gentiles who followed Jesus because he was Israel's king/savior.

We cannot simply have our nature transformed by the work of Jesus, without our behavior and attitudes and relationships being transformed as well. This requires us living up to the calling we have received as children of God. We must nurture our new nature.

Embrace your nature as a child of God...this passage should fill us with a sense of freedom and hope//not leave us feeling guilty or worthless (a child of God that is what you are!!!)

Seek obedience and seek to love.

## In light of what Christ has done and in the shadow of future glory.

In the last days (Ian's passage last week)

This means we live in the light of what Christ has done and in the shadow of future glory.

As we have just looked at John is adamant that in light of what Jesus has achieved we are to live by that transformed nature. But this passage's main thrust is to do with our future glory

V28

V 2,3

"Look busy Jesus is coming soon"?? Misses the point.

Preparation and Progression (continue in Him and purify themselves)

[If I were to meet Steve Waugh...](#)

Difference is that I am out to impress Steve Waugh...

We are not called to impress Jesus on his return...but if our nature is that of a child of God because of the work of Christ and our hope is in being made like Christ when we see him face to face then is there any other way to live our lives except to nurture this nature and remain in Him???

JOHN SAYS NO WAY. The transformation is underway...this is not just a time to sit back do what you like and wait for His return!! Our hope is to be like Christ and while John admits exactly what that looks like has not been fully revealed our lives are already lived IN HIM. So John once again urges his readers to 'remain/continue in HIM'

New born's new life is not the goal...its growth and maturity are...so it is nurtured to this end.

REMAIN IN HIM – embrace wholeheartedly the one whose image you bear! (watch how much that lawlessness loses its hold on you)

The power that is at work in the children of God in the present is the same power that shall transform them at the return of Christ. If they are promised that they will be pure (3:3), in the present they are exhorted to live in anticipation of that promise since the same transforming power is at work in them.

John is so forceful because he understands that this is not the only power at work. This whole letter is to help believers remain in Christ walking in truth, obedience and love because other forces sought to lead them astray.

Here in v1 he says the reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. When we are surrounded by others that just don't get why we do what we do, it can be hard to live wholeheartedly by our nature as children of God.

Pause and reflect on:

1. What factor/s are presently hindering you remaining in Him?
2. What might you shift to better nurture your nature as a child of God?

John 15

<sup>5</sup>“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.<sup>10</sup>If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Dear children of God this is our joy!!

It's not a drag to seek righteousness

It's not a burden to love one another

It's not frustrating that lawlessness reigns all around us and we miss out on the “fun!”

It's not with anxiousness or fear that we await the return of our Saviour

It's not with impatience that we live out these last days.

IT IS OUR JOY to be called Children of God and to nurture this nature until its final completion when we see Jesus face to face.

SO..v28 now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.