

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1) REVIEW THE SERMON

What stood out to you from the message this week?

What does it mean to abide? What is the importance of the term in relation to the text (2:28) (To remain and stay with permanence. 'To put down roots.'

Make a connection with John 15:1-8 We have to stay and remain in Christ because that's where our life comes from)

What comes to mind when you think of "practicing righteousness?" (2:29)

Why is it important that John says everyone who practices righteousness HAS BEEN born of God? (2:29) (It demonstrates that it is a past and completed reality. Our lives that are lived practicing righteousness demonstrate/show our salvation. Our works don't produce salvation).

3:1 has some pretty powerful and poetic language to describe our nature as children of God. What is it and how does it relate to our relationship? (There is a focus on the unfamiliarity of the nature of the love. It has been bestowed upon us, not of our own doing, we are called and legitimized in the family of God. *Connect this with the three sub points regarding our relationship with God: 1) Not of yourself 2) Constant 3) Organic [Producing of Itself])

Why and in what way will Christians one day "be like" God? (3:2) (Because we shall see him as he is. He will complete what He has started within us and transform us fully and perfectly. We will not be like him in essence as God, but in character and love. Eternal life, no more sin, no more effects of sin (pain), full righteousness).

2) ASSESS YOUR LIFE

It is increasingly true that the world does not know (recognize, identify with) us as Christians. How should we live and interact with the unbelieving world around us? (v1) (Be prepared for the hostility and attempts at silencing our voices when we stand for Christ. Be loving, as Jesus was, in the face of hatred/mockery).

Which of the four truths about knowing your identity as a child of God is easiest for you to grasp? Which one is most difficult? (Things changed by your

identity as a child of God: Your Confidence, Your Habits, Your Relationships, Your Destiny).

3) APPLY THE TRUTH

Consider for Accountability As a Christian, what are 1-2 things you regularly do to "purify yourself" (v3) (Ex: Repentance, abiding in the word, obeying God's clear commands, submitting yourself to the direction of the Holy Spirit, putting off sinful passions, reassessing priorities, etc.)

Knowing your identity as a child of God gives you so much freedom (freedom from shame, adherence to life, unity with God and with others, etc.) Which aspect of being a child of God do you need to focus more on?