

A REMINDER OF THE THREE “TESTS” OF SALVATION THROUGHOUT 1 JOHN

1. The THEOLOGICAL Test — Do you BELIEVE that Jesus is the Son of God (18x) and therefore, the LIGHT of the world?

1John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

2. The MORAL (FAMILY RESEMBLANCE) Test — Is it your desire to be pure? Are you making every EFFORT to live like Jesus?

1John 3:6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning: . . .

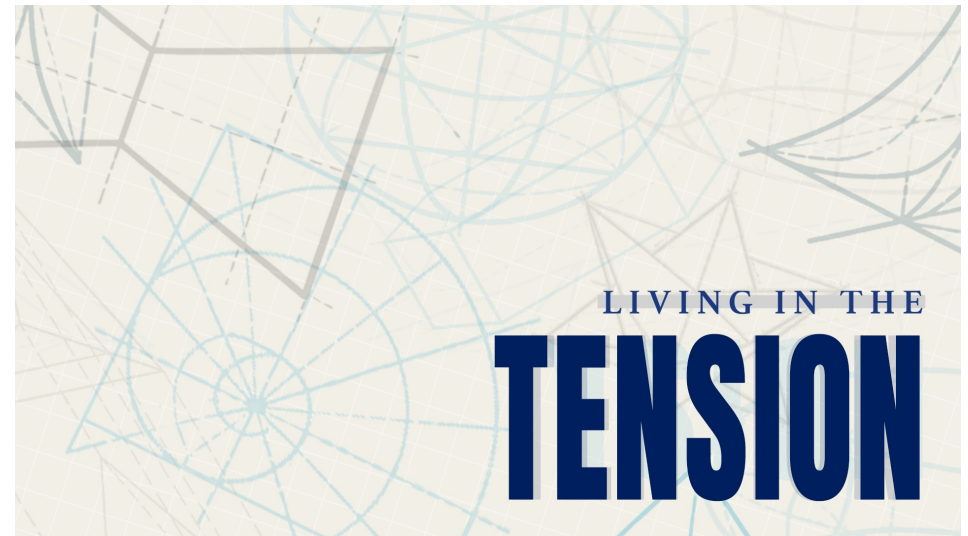
3. SOCIAL Test — Do you truly LOVE others?

1John 4:21 And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

What is your Family Resemblance?

| The Children of God | The Children of the devil |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| See and Know the Father | Don't See or Know God |
| Abide in Christ/Christ Abides | Move Away from Jesus |
| Practice Righteousness like Jesus (Our Hope from the Beginning) | Practice Sin like the devil from the Beginning |
| Love like the Father | Don't Love |
| Become like Jesus: Confident Without Shame | Become like the devil: Shrink in Shame |

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June 27 & 28, 2026 | Living in the Tension- 2 | 1 John 2:28-3:10 | Sam Ward

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:

1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.

1 John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

1 John 3:4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 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.

REMEMBER WHOSE FAMILY YOU ARE!

1. You are God's child NOW.

1 John 2:28 And now, little children,...

*3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called **children of God; and so we are...***

*7 **Little children**, let no one deceive you...*

*9... because he has been **born of God**. 10 By this it is evident who are the **children of God**,...*

2. The Father's love is GIVEN, not earned.

STAY CLOSE TO JESUS

1 John 2:28...**abide** in him...

3:9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for **God's seed abides** in him; and he cannot keep on sinning...

1. ABIDE means to remain, stay, or reside.
2. JESUS abides in us.

FAMILY RESEMBLANCE SHOWS UP IN "PRACTICE"

1. Children of God practice being like their FATHER.

1 John 2:29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that **everyone who practices righteousness** has been **born of him**.

3:7 Little children, let no one deceive you. **Whoever practices righteousness** is righteous, as he is righteous.

- a. They practice EVERYDAY.
(ποιέω ποιεō do; make; to practice; to produce; to do)
- b. They practice RIGHTEOUSNESS and love.

1 John 2:29 ...everyone who **practices righteousness**...

3:10 ...**love(s)** his brother.

2. WHO are the children of the devil? (the world/anti-Christ)

1 John 3:1 ...The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

4 Everyone who makes a **practice of sinning** also **practices lawlessness**; sin is lawlessness

6 No one who abides in him **keeps on sinning**; no one who **keeps on sinning** has either seen him or known him.

8 Whoever makes a **practice of sinning** is of the devil, for the devil has been **sinning from the beginning**...

10 ...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.

- a. They don't know the FATHER or his children.
- b. They break God's LAW.
- c. They practice SIN.

JESUS COMPLETES WHAT HE STARTED

1. He APPEARED as a man to start his good work.

1 John 3:5 You know that he appeared in order **to take away sins**, and in him there is no sin.
8 ...The reason the Son of God appeared was **to destroy the works of the devil**.

2. He will appear AGAIN...

- a. to complete our TRANSFORMATION.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears **we shall be like him**, because we shall see him as he is.

- b. to trade our SHAME for confidence.

1 John 2:28 ...so that when he appears **we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame** at his coming.

3. The future APPEARANCE of Jesus gives us hope today.

1 John 3:3 And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself** as he is pure.

Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ.

YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD NOW.

WHAT ARE YOU PRACTICING TODAY TO BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS WHEN HE APPEARS?