

Full Context of Passage

. John writes a series of letters with the intentions of instructing his disciples on how to manage, build, and understand their relationships with others, but most importantly their relationship with God

Sub-context

. Preceding Chapter 3 John finishes chapter 2 with an emphasis on being confident and unashamed in being a Child of God

1 John 2: 28-29 “And now, dear children, continue in him, so when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him”

Verse 1 pt. 1

- . Following this emphasis he places a focus on understanding the magnitude of the love which God has for us
- . God has adopted us into his family calling us a Child of God
- . John doesn't just want us to hear it and know, but to actually understand it, study it, and learn the ends and outs of it

Verse 1 pt 2

- . Because of this love we can expect to be set apart in this world
- . It has the power to set you apart so much that the world which you abide in will no longer recognize you
- . Imagine being a foreigner in your 'home.'
This is okay because it is only a stop before an eternity with our father in heaven

- . We should even expect rejection in this world as Jesus was rejected, for in accepting His love we claim our identity in Christ
- . We are no longer of this world!

Verse 2

- . Have you ever wondered what Heaven will be like?
- . We most all have, but nothing which we have imagined is real. It could be close to what heaven will be like, but in reality we don't really know
- . The truth is, we can't understand what it will be like until we experience it, it creates a lot of uncertainty in what heaven will look like, but John gives us truth when he tells us we'll see Christ for who he is and be like him
- . We know in heaven that we will be like Christ

. It doesn't mean that we will be like clones of Christ, we will still have our individual personalities and characteristics, but we won't carry the burden of our Sin, and for the first time, like Christ, will be truly sinless.

. How great will it be! No longer will we carry the weight which sin puts on us. No guilt, no regrets or pain from falling short, just perfection.

. We shall find courage to fight the losing battle against our Sin daily, for in this truth we know that one day we will be freed from its bondage

Verse 3

. John speaks of hope. Yes it is a hope for the eternal life that awaits us in heaven, but it is also for now

. It's not a hope set only in the future, but a hope which can be currently active in our lives

. For knowing our eternal destiny and living in this hope helps us to keep our minds and hearts set on pursuing Christ now

. With Christ in focus we can strive to emulate the purity which only he is capable of.

. Ultimately our hope is not in heaven, but in Jesus who sacrificed himself to take us there

Verse 4 & 5

. Following a message of hope John humbles us and reminds us who we were before God. Sinners.

. John then refocuses us on Jesus, and reminds us of His sacrifice to save us from the penalty of our Sin which is death.

. This reiterates that the hope he speaks of in verses 1-3 is reserved for those who come by faith to Jesus, and receive the gift which he made available to us through his sacrifice on the cross

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Verse 6 pt. 1

. John tells us that whoever abides in him does not sin, but whoever sins has neither seen him or known him

. How is this, because in 1 John 1:8 he tells us “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” So he can’t literally mean we do not sin. So the question is what is he trying to get at.

. John doesn't mean we will never sin, but instead means we won't desire a life of habitual sin.

. What does habitual sin look like?

Galatians 5: 19-21, "The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

. This passage describes a fallen and sinful world that is all around us.

Verse 7

. John tells us that the world seeks to move us away from Christ, and is warning us against this deception. This circles back to questions

regarding habitual sin.

. How do we move away from being like this fallen and sinful world, and living in the habitual sin which embodies it?

. Like the overarching focus of 1 John suggest, surround yourself with brothers and sisters in Christ. The world will already do enough to deter you from Christ, keep company that encourages you to pursue your relationship with Him.

. How do we identify these people?

. Look for reflections of Christ in them. Paul tells us in Galatians 5:22-23. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and

desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

. Seek out those who not only identify in a relationship with Christ, but exhibit the fruits of the spirit in their walk with Him

. Maintain these relationships and allow them to strengthen you and hold you accountable during your walk with Christ. Allow them to drive you closer to God, and assist in the most vital part of your life which is Jesus

Send Off

. I am thankful to God for providing peers to experience my walk with Christ with.

Together we have held each other accountable and experienced some of the ups and downs which life brings. It has not been perfect, nothing is, but it has left us with the

understanding of what Christ centered relationships look like. As we go our separate ways may we all remember that in Christ we will forever be connected. My hope and prayer for every one of us is that as we forge our new lives we strive to emulate and build Christ Centered relationships with others as we have already done amongst ourselves through highschool. The time we've had has been priceless, and it is sad to look back now and know that it is gone. The memories have been made and the time has been spent. I am thankful that I have gotten to share it with each one of you. These times will be missed, but nevertheless I look forward to seeing what God has in store for every one of our lives, and as we go off into the world may we all glorify God, and find our happiness along the way in the plans He has for each one of us.

