

October 30, 2022
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
1 John 2:28-3:10

“Moral Test #2: Family Resemblance – Part 2”

- I. Prologue [Introduction] – 1:1-4
- II. Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #1 – 1:5-2:27 – Moral; Social; Doctrinal tests
- III. **Tests of Genuine Fellowship: Cycle (Spiral) #2 – 2:28-4:6**
 - A. **The Moral Test – 2:28-3:10 – Family Resemblance**
 - 1. **Family Resemblance in Light of the Future Coming of Christ (2:28-3:3)**
 - a. Regeneration (2:28-29)
 - b. **Adoption (3:1-3)**
 - 1) **Perpetual _____ (3:1)**

2) **Profound _____ / _____ (3:1b-2)**
a) **Current _____ (3:1b)**

b) **Future _____ (3:2)**

c) **Passionate _____ (3:3)**

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. How did you do this past week with your “Declaration of Independence” from the world and Declaration of Dependence” on God?
2. “**Identity**” is a very important concept in the Bible. **Before** you were a born-again follower of Jesus Christ: How did you identify yourself? What names / descriptions did you use? List both positive and negative. What did the Bible say was your identity? List as many as you can find (i.e., children of wrath – Eph. 2:3).
3. What identity does the Bible give you **after** you were born-again? List as many as you can find (i.e., called children of God – 1 John 3:1).
4. We know that it was “**love**” that motivated God to save us and adopt us into His family. But John commands us to “**See**” that love with new eyes. He describes it as “**how great a love**” (or what kind of love; what classification of love). What does he mean by that? How is God’s adopting love in a different classification than other kinds of love we know and experience?
5. Read **Eph. 3:14-19**. Paul prayed that believers would be rooted and grounded in love, and that they would begin to comprehend the incomprehensible love of Christ. Describe for one another the four dimensions of love Paul speaks of: **breadth, length, height, and depth**. Find biblical references for God’s love described in those terms. Talk about how meditating on God’s love impacts your thoughts, attitudes, emotions, actions, and assurance of salvation.
6. 1 John 3:1 says the Father has “**bestowed**” this great love on us. Why did He choose to do that? (hint: see Dt. 7:6-8 for why God chose to love Israel) The verb “bestowed” is in the **perfect tense**. What is the significance of that? What impact does that have on your assurance of salvation?
7. Based on 1 John 3:1, what should we **expect** from the Father on a moment-by-moment basis because we are His adopted children? If we truly lived with that expectation, what impact would it have on our thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions? How would it impact our prayer life? How would it impact our joy in the midst of the ups and downs of life? Is it evident to yourself and others that you truly believe God is constantly lavishing upon you His love that is in an entirely different category than any other love on earth? Give examples. How might you develop a greater awareness of God’s love for you?
8. Why does John say that being adopted into God’s family is the reason that the world does not know us? According to the Bible, what should we expect from people who don’t truly know God? (See John 8:19, 55; 15:18-21; 16:1-3 to get started) How does knowing this ahead of time help you deal with it when it happens?
9. What is John’s point in 1 John 3:2? What will happen to us when Jesus returns? See Rom. 8:14-25; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-57. What do those passages tell us we should do now because we know what will happen to us in the future?
10. What is our part in 1 John 3:3? Active or passive? See Phil. 2:12-13; 3:12-14; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Pet. 1:14-16; 2 Pet. 1:5-8. What specific resources has God provided for us so we can grow in purity? What are you doing on a daily basis to passionately pursue being as pure as Jesus is pure?
11. **Memorize 1 John 3:1-3**. By the power of the Holy Spirit live like children of God.

[Answer to blanks: Identification; Implications/Expectations; Rejection; Transformation; Participation]