

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS FOR HUBLETS OR ALONE.

Do you ever have doubts or fears about whether you are forgiven by God and part of his family?

Can you recognise moments in your life, when you've seen your motives change?

How does knowing who we are, impact the way we live?

What do you love doing, to bless others, without reward or fear?

How much time do you take to reflect on your motives and reasons why you do things?

Discuss 'topos', in what ways does the enemy get 'footholds' in our lives?

Personal reflection: Are there any self-centred motives which are regularly in your heart, that you want to bring to God and ask him to purify?

Living Free part 6

1 John 3:8-18 & 1 Peter 1:21-2:1

Recap

- Free from & Free to.
- The reality of the spiritual, heavenly realms.
- Set free from Shame.
- Beloved Children - relationship of: Faith, Intimacy, Obedience
- Don't be led astray - Fear, Shame, Rebellion

1 John - Whole book. - John's reasons for writing:

- Build relationship & make joy complete (1:3-4)
- not sin (2:1)
- Love one another (throughout)
- Not led astray (3:7)

Ch.3

Children of the devil	Children of God
Lawless (rebellious)	Become like Jesus
Led astray (deceived)	Purified
Murderers	Love (Lay down life)
	Love (active service)
	Believe truth
	Rest in God's Presence
	Confidence to ask with faith
	Obey his commands

Assurance of who they are.
Knowing our true identity - leads to loving others.

How do we know our true identity?

1 John 3:8-18 (Passion Translation)

But the one who indulges in a sinful life is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God was revealed was to undo and destroy the works of the devil.

9 Everyone who is truly God's child will refuse to keep sinning because God's seed remains within him, and he is unable to continue sinning because he has been fathered by God himself. 10 Here is how God's children can be clearly distinguished from the children of the Evil One. Anyone who does not demonstrate righteousness and show love to fellow believers is not living with God as his source.

11 The beautiful message you've heard right from the start is that we should walk in self-sacrificing love toward one another. 12 We should not be like Cain, who yielded to the Evil One and brutally murdered his own brother, Abel. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's righteous.

13 So don't be shocked, beloved brothers and sisters, if you experience the world's hatred. 14 Yet we can be assured that we have been translated from spiritual death into spiritual life because we love the family of believers. A loveless life remains spiritually dead. 15 Everyone who keeps hating a fellow believer is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

16 This is how we have discovered love's reality: Jesus sacrificed his life for us. Because of this great love, we should be willing to lay down our lives for one another. 17 If anyone sees a fellow believer in need and has the means to help him, yet shows no pity and closes his heart against him, how is it even possible that God's love lives in him?

18 Beloved children, our love can't be an abstract theory we only talk about, but a way of life demonstrated through our loving deeds.

'children of the evil one'. - CAIN.

'yielded to the evil one and murdered his own brother.'

Genesis 4:7

"... if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it. "

Ephesians 4:27

do not give the devil a foothold.

Foothold: *topos* - piece of ground, landing pad, opportunity

***The reason the Son of God was revealed
Was to undo and destroy the works of the devil.***

MOTIVES

- A. Biological survival
- B. External influence (Stick or Carrot)
- C. Internal.

Stick/Carrot

- Fear - '*Fight or flight*'. - '*Make me feel safe*'
- Rewards - *dopamine* - pleasure - '*Make me feel good*'

Internal - Contentment - Love. - "*How can I serve others?*"

What makes the difference?

- Intimacy with God
- Knowing our identity (Believing the truth)
- Purifying our motives (throwing off all that's inconsistent)