**Child of God**

**The Word**

Read together 1 John 2:28-3:3

**The Big Idea**

Through faith in Jesus, we have become members of God’s family, and we enjoy all the benefits and experience all the implications of being God’s children.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Consider the various dynamics of what it means to be God’s children mentioned in Sunday’s message. What is the one dynamic you most needed to be reminded of and why?

2. Consider the concept of family discussed on Sunday. What would it look like for Grace Fellowship Church to move towards being a true family in the coming years? Feel free to consider formal structures and programs or simply informal relationships and attitudes.

3. Read and discuss 1 John 3:2-3 together. What questions do those verses raise for you?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. The Family of God

A. The New Testament regularly uses familial language for the church: children, Father, brothers/sisters

 1. Matthew 12:46-50: Jesus redefines family around himself

 2. Galatians 3:26: We are all children of God through faith

 B. Family redefined around Christ followers

 1. Your family determines your identity

 2. Your family instills values

 3. Your family gives you relational intimacy

C. American Christianity has been reduced to “how can I be sure I’ll go to heaven when I die?” But true Christianity is about being a part of God’s family. At Grace we should be like a family: deeply involved in these relationships.

II. The love of God

 A. The love of God is at the very center of John’s understanding of who God is

 See 1 John 3:18, 3:16, 4:9-10, 4:18

 Love is about God’s action, his sacrificial action on our behalf through his Son

 B. Are we grateful for God’s lavish love, or do we take it for granted?

III. The children of God

 A. We are children of God simply and only by faith in Jesus (John 1:12-13)

B. God’s family is now an international family of people of diverse ethnicities and backgrounds

 C. Three dynamics of being God’s children

 1. God protects his children like a father

 2. Abraham’s call to bring blessing to the world is now our call

 3. God disciplines us just as fathers discipline their children (Heb 12:7-11)