

## Like Father, like Son

- Picture of the three boys as day-old babies, side by side:
  - Mark, Andrew, Peter
- "Kent his Faither..."
  - Mick McGahey, NUM leader of Scottish area in the early 1980's
  - from fairly close to Whitburn
  - reputedly there were skeletons in the cupboard
  - certainly true that if someone seemed to have "kent his faither" he'd make tracks!
  - because the real person, not the media front, was exposed

## Exposition

- (2:28) *And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.*
- Continue is key word
- (2:29) *If you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.*
- He is righteous - so can recognise the family resemblance!!
- (3:1) *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*
- How great is God's love! Made into children, bearing the family resemblance
- Also, that family likeness comes through Christ:
  - the world around us does not recognise us as children of God because it has not recognised the Lord
- (3:2) *Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.*
- We are children of God - but what we will be when "full grown" is yet to be revealed
  - all we know is that we shall be like him!
  - and then we shall see him completely, fully...
- (3:3) *Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.*
- The natural consequence of being a child of God, and so having such a hope, is that we will want to be pure
  - why? because he is pure - bear the family resemblance
- (3:4) *Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.*
- Sin is marring the family likeness
- (3:5) *But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin.*
- Jesus came to take away that which marred the family likeness
  - he came to deal with our sin
  - he could do that because he himself was sinless
  - so on the Cross he did not have to bear his own punishment for sin; there was space on his shoulders for ours!
- Family resemblance is righteousness!
- (3:6) *No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.*
- You can let a family down and remain in it:
  - but disowning the family is another thing entirely

- this verse is about that distinction - are we wanting to bear the family likeness (righteousness) or mar it (sin)?
- (3:7) *Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.*
- Somehow these Christians were in danger of being deceived in this area:
  - the same stuff again - bear the family likeness!
- (3:8) *He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*
- Actually to sin is not just to mar the likeness of God's family, but also to bear the likeness of another family:
  - the devil's family
  - to behave as the devil has behaved from ever he rebelled against God: selfishly, lying, hating....
- (3:9) *No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.*
- Seed is what we would think of as DNA, sperm, that internal reality which shapes the outward family resemblance
  - if we are truly born of God, that likeness will come out
  - behaviour in human families almost more telling than looks!
  - so spiritually - do we act like our Father, like our elder brother, like our siblings at their best...?
- (3:10) *This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.*
- Repetition for effect!!
  - note as we conclude working through the way it is not just a vertical God-man thing, a Father-child relationship
  - there is a critical child-child dimension!
  - do we love - which is acting in righteousness - do we love our brothers and sisters?
  - even the difficult ones!?

## Illustrations

### Pus:

- wound, underlying problem has been dealt with;
- aftercare, caring for the wound keeps it clean;
- Christ has dealt with our sin in the fundamental sin, but we can allow its deadly influence to encroach again...

### Apprentice:

- more than just the technical skills would often be picked up;
- style, peculiar tricks of the trade, approach to customers or work would often be picked up
- apprentice would end up bearing the mark, resembling the craftsman they trained with

## Conclusion

- Bear the family resemblance, become like Christ!
  - make that your goal, purpose, and yard-stick...

### Questions

- What was Jesus like?
- How do you know?

- How could you be more like that?