

1 John 3:1 Security and Separation Weekend away, Oct 2004

- Read 1 John 2:28-3:10 each morning

Security

- **Who are we?**
 - identity is very important to us...
 - how we think of ourselves
 - how others think of us
 - unique and different to everyone else...
 - but at the same time part of things - family, friends, occupation, interests, clubs...
- One of those things that we probably don't have at the forefront of our minds most of the time:
 - but profoundly affects the way we act
 - are we confident in our relationships, or insecure?
 - are we willing to take on challenges, or will we prefer the easy course that achieves less?
 - will we cope with difficulties and trauma, or will we buckle?
 - will we have the resources to think of the needs and interests of others, or will we be shallowly self-interested, unable to think or act beyond what is good for ourselves?
- Though not exclusively true, many of those traits have their roots in our identity, who we believe and know ourselves to be:
 - we are more likely to be confident in forging relationships with others if we are secure in the core relationships of our lives, the ones that shape our identity
 - we are more likely to take on challenges if know that who we are is not affected even if we fail
 - we are more likely to cope with difficulties for the same reason
 - we are more likely to think beyond ourselves if we are not worried our identity is under threat
- **Who are we?**
- **We are children of God**
 - loved by a Father so powerful none can steal us away
 - loved by a Father who has our best interests at heart
 - loved by a Father who has dealt with our fundamental problem, our sinful rebellion, who has forever taken away the possibility of separation from him
 - loved by a Father who, in doing that, has given us unquenchable hope!
- This passage is one about continuing, about being confident and unashamed in the life we are living:
 - rooted in who we are as God's children

Separation

- Yesterday talked about **Security**
 - but there is something that appears to follow from knowing that security...
 - problems, trouble, in our relationship with the world around us
 - as Christians we are different...
 - friends won't understand us, will mock us, will (overtly or subtly) pressure us to be like them, to not make them uncomfortable
 - we find that the way the Bible talks about stuff is in stark contrast to the world around us: **sexuality and its expression; money and how it is acquired and spent; truth and whether it matters; concern for others, especially the poor** (self-giving or self-serving? Band Aid 3?!)
- **What are we to make of this?**
- Is this a sign that we are doing things wrong?
 - is it a sign that we are not connecting with those around us?
 - *(need to be carefully we are not simply being obtuse idiots, of course!)*
- But, fundamentally, we should expect it:
 - *"The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him." (1 John 3:1b)*
- Though we are secure in our relationship with God, that will often makes us feel awkward and out of place in this world
 - if we do feel too at home here, we should actually be worried!!
 - we are staying in someone else's house! It may be fine and comfortable, but it isn't home... and we want to be home
 - home is where we yearn for, work towards, live to be
 - perhaps we'll make something of where we live now a bit like home, with its colour and life and values (church)
 - and we'll strive to welcome others into our Father's home, not just as guests who pass through but as children of the Father, entering through Jesus' death for them...
- **Security and Separation...**