



smoke & mirrors

THIS WEEK 1 JOHN 3: 1-10



1 John 3:1-3— God's Love Defines Our Identity

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1 John 3:1-3 CSB

[1] See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God's children—and we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it didn't know him. [2] Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that when he appears, we will be like him because we will see him as he is. [3] And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself just as he is pure.

1 John 3:1-3— God's Love Defines Our Identity

God doesn't just call us His children—He makes us His children. Identity is not earned, it's given.

The world doesn't "get" us because it doesn't know Him (v.1).

Believers live with different values, hope, and priorities—so don't be surprised if the world misunderstands or mocks that.

We're children now (identity present) but also becoming (future hope—when Christ returns, we'll be like Him).

Hope in Christ motivates purity—not to earn God's love, but because we already have it.



Big Idea: Being a child of God *defines* who we are now and *shapes* who we will become.

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**1 John 3:4-6— Sin Is Incompatible
with Being a Child of God**

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1 John 3:4-6 CSB

Everyone who commits sin practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. [5] You know that he was revealed so that he might take away sins, and there is no sin in him. [6] Everyone who remains in him does not sin; everyone who sins has not seen him or known him.

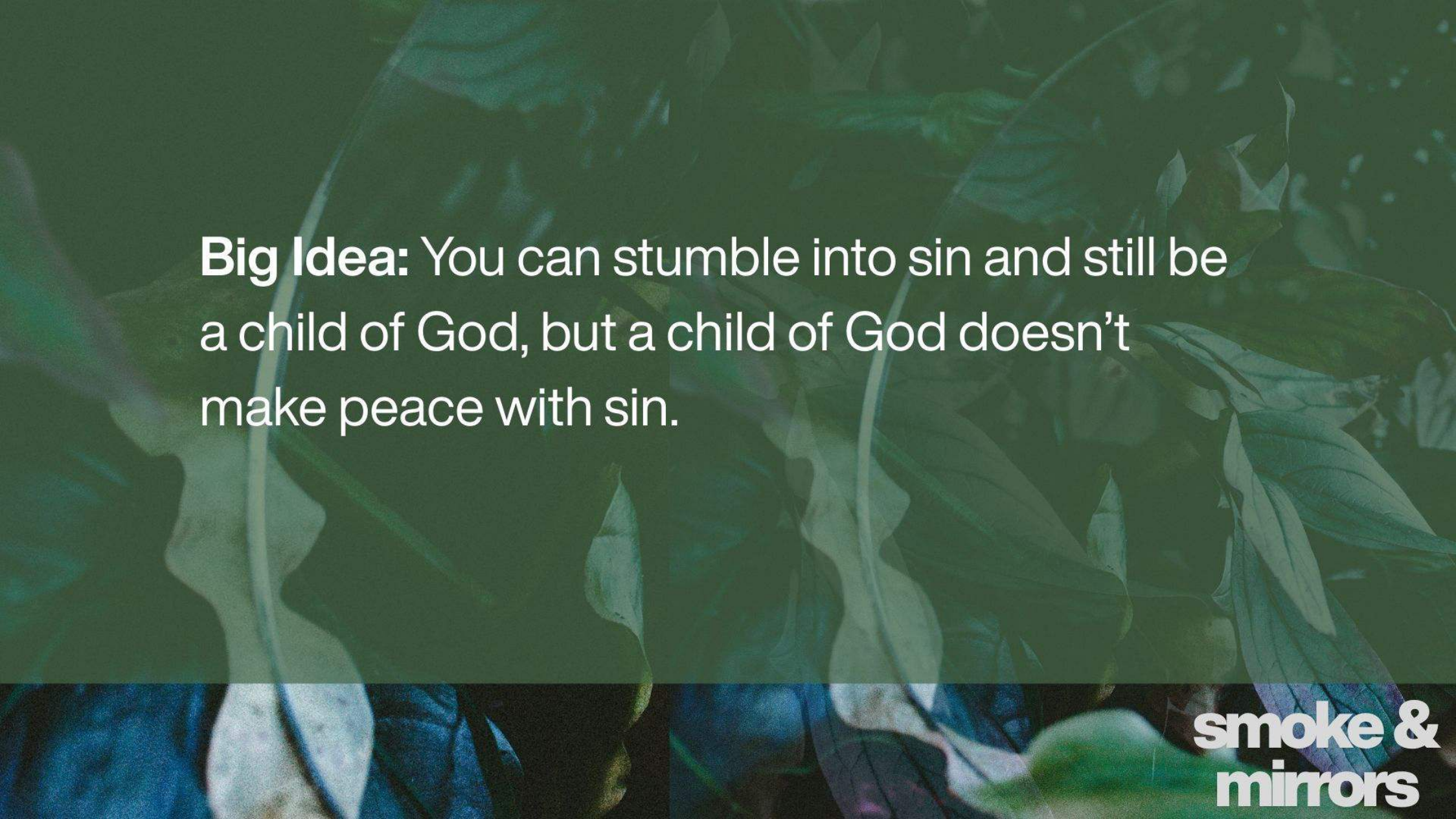
1 John 3:4-6— Sin Is Incompatible with Being a Child of God

Incompatible means two things don't work together. They clash. They cancel each other out.

John is saying being a child of God and living in sin are like that: you can't mix the two.

It doesn't mean you'll never stumble. It means you can't comfortably live in sin and still honestly claim fellowship with God.

Stumbling into sin → possible, forgivable, part of the journey
Settling into sin → incompatible with being a child of God



Big Idea: You can stumble into sin and still be a child of God, but a child of God doesn't make peace with sin.

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1 John 3:7-10— Your Life
Reveals Your Family

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1 John 3:7-10 CSB

Little children, let no one deceive you. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. [8] The one who commits sin is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the devil's works. [9] Everyone who has been born of God does not sin, because his seed remains in him; he is not able to sin, because he has been born of God. [10] This is how God's children and the devil's children become obvious. Whoever does not do what is right is not of God, especially the one who does not love his brother or sister.

1 John 3:7-10— Your Life Reveals Your Family

John makes it black-and-white: your life reveals your spiritual family.

Ongoing sin = devil's influence.

Righteous living = God's family resemblance.

Jesus came to destroy the devil's works (v.8)—so sin can't define those born of God.

God's "seed" (the Spirit) changes our nature—we can't remain the same.

The markers of God's children are clear: righteousness & love (v.10).



Big Idea: Your life will always
reflect the family you belong to.
*Your loyalty is revealed by your
actions.*

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God's Love Defines Our Identity

Being a child of God is a gift, not earned. Our present identity and future hope shape how we live.

Sin Is Incompatible with Being a Child of God

We can stumble, but we don't make a lifestyle out of sin. Our relationship with Christ changes how we approach sin.

Your Life Reveals Your Family

Our choices, actions, and patterns show where our true allegiance lies: God's family or the world's.

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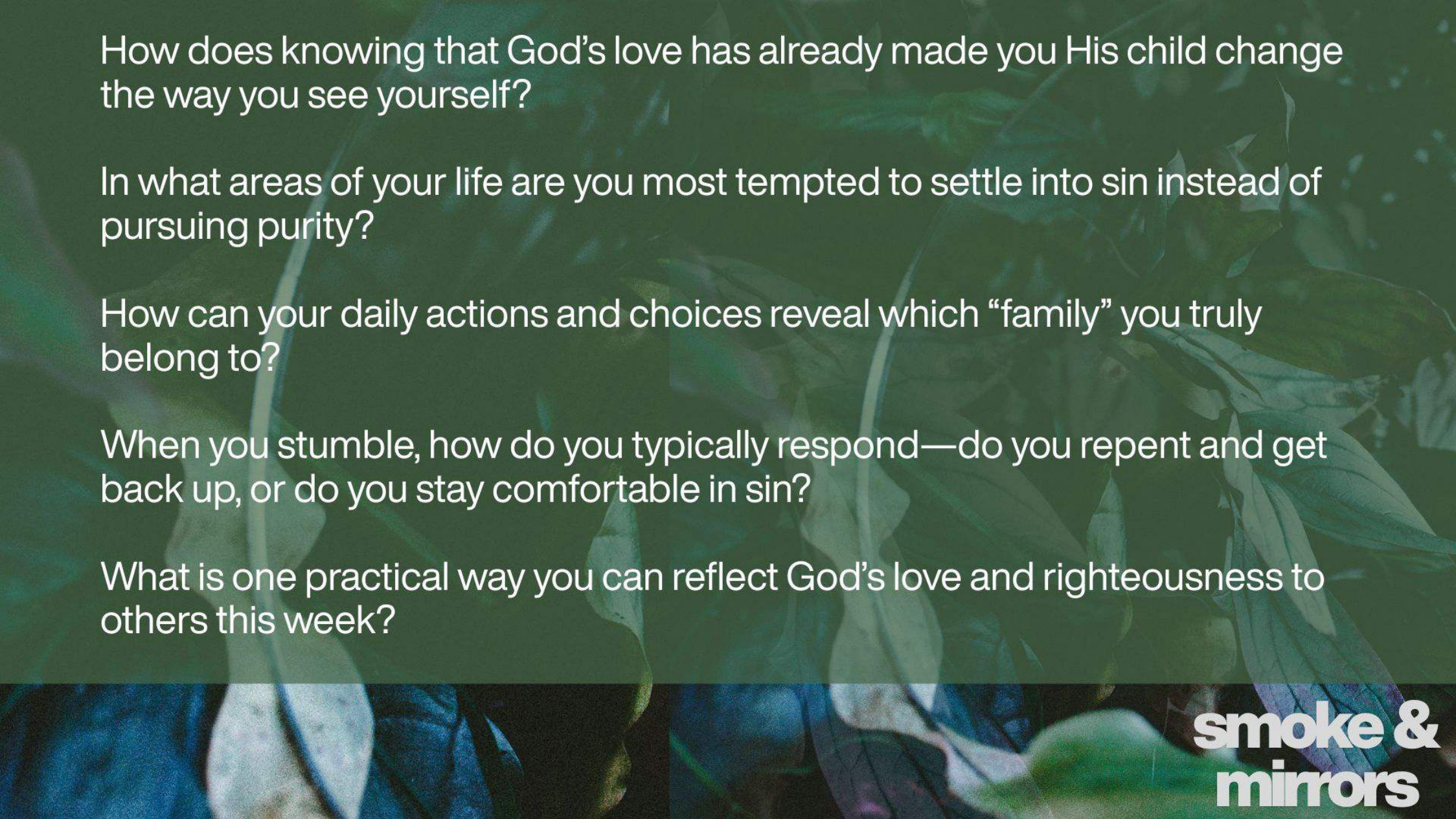
Memory Verse

1 John 3:1 (CSB)

“See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God’s children—and we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it didn’t know him.”

Reflection questions





How does knowing that God's love has already made you His child change the way you see yourself?

In what areas of your life are you most tempted to settle into sin instead of pursuing purity?

How can your daily actions and choices reveal which "family" you truly belong to?

When you stumble, how do you typically respond—do you repent and get back up, or do you stay comfortable in sin?

What is one practical way you can reflect God's love and righteousness to others this week?