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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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The Reality of Resemblance

1 John 2:28-3:10

Series: Reality Check – (re)Aligning Our Lives to the Way of Jesus

Central Passages

1 John 2:29–3:3 (ESV) — **29** If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that **everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him**. **1** See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. **3** **And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**

Central Thought: The proof that we are God's children is that we look like Jesus.

Context

- ❖ The appearing of Christ at his second and final coming to judge the living and the dead. (vs. 2:28; 3: 2-3, See also 1 John 1:2)

Acts 10:39–42 (ESV) — **39** And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, **40** but God raised him on the third day and made him to **appear**, **41** not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42** And he commanded us to preach to the **people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.**

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Leaning into Our Lineage

- ❖ As faithful followers of Jesus, our primary identity is as children of God! (vs. 3:1-3)

John 1:11–13 (ESV) — **11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. **12** **But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,** **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (See also John 3:3)

Mark 3:32–35 (ESV) — **32** And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." **33** And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" **34** And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! **35** For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

- ❖ We know we have become children of God when unrighteousness makes us uncomfortable, and love becomes our primary language. (vs. 4-10)

Ephesians 5:1–5 (NLT) — **1** Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. **2** Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. **3** Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. **4** Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. **5** You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world.

- ❖ The more we hang out with Jesus, the more our lives will resemble his. (vs. 28, 6; See also John 15:1-17).

John 15:5–12 (ESV) — **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing... **9** As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love...**12** "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.