

A Family Resemblance

(February 1, 2026, Glen G. Scorgie)

Scripture Reading: 1 John 2:28–3:3

SERMON SUMMARY

This was the second of two back-to-back sermons on God as *our heavenly Father*. As we noted, God is first revealed in Scripture as the LORD, a title that conveys his majestic sovereignty, his authority, and his right to our obedience. But Jesus favored another (complementary) name. Using familiar family imagery, he preferred to describe the LORD as (his and our) heavenly Father. In the first sermon we explored how this new vision of God is meant to encourage us and invite a more affectionate, secure and confident attachment to our unseen heavenly Father.

Then, in this second sermon, we turned our attention to another important implication of this fatherhood imagery that the biblical authors also highlight: namely, that everyone expects to see some family resemblance between a father and his children—similar traits, similar interests, similar ways of doing things. It is only natural that there should be a telltale likeness to the Father evident in the lives and behaviors of his sons and daughters. The Scriptures before us, especially 1 John 2, draw out the spiritual implications of this family analogy.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. What was your main personal takeaway from the message this past Sunday?
2. The Bible assures us that we who have put our faith in Christ have become “children of God.” In light of our text (1 John 2), in what ways is this new identity that we have been given both a *privilege* and a *responsibility*?
3. How does becoming “born again” (John 3:3-8) lead to greater family likeness to our heavenly Father and his Son Jesus Christ? What new spiritual impulses are created in our hearts through the miracle of regeneration?
4. Does this New Birth automatically guarantee that we will behave in Christlike ways? What does our text mean when it says: “All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure” (1 John 3:3)? What is our role in this transformational process?
5. As we noted, the third commandment of the Ten Commandments says: “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God” (Exodus 20:7). How might this command apply in our current context?
6. Which aspects of a “family resemblance” to God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ does the world most need to see in professing Christians these days?
7. Which “divine family characteristics” have you seen and appreciated most in your brothers and sisters in Christ?