

10.12.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: Children of God

Scripture Reading: [1 John 3: 28 – 4: 10](#); [Psalm 51: 1 - 6](#)

Reflection: Rev. Evan Heerema

About 53 years ago, I was still a student in high school. Two of my uncles, on the Heerema side of my family, were involved in small-town politics in the area in which I lived. That meant advertising on signs and bumper stickers. The Heerema name was advertised as a name that could be trusted to lead and to make wise decisions. As I was walking to school one morning, I was reminded by the Holy Spirit that I had to live wisely too, so as not to smear the family name. (I say that the Spirit reminded me of that because if it wasn't the Spirit, I don't think I would have remembered it for the past 53 years. It was given to me then, for a time such as this.)

Representing the family name became important to me. If I did something less than honorable, I would have "sinned" against those whom I represented.

As children of God, lavishly loved by our Father in heaven, we are called to continual obedience, striving to be righteous, "just as he is righteous." What we do or say that is less than righteous, can and will hurt the name of Jesus. This should be something we should hate, knowing we have hurt the name of God. Psalm 51 is introduced as a confession of David when he was confronted about his sin against Bathsheba and her husband Uriah. David is fully aware that he did not only sin against two fellow human beings but also primarily that he sinned against God. He smeared God's name, and his heart is filled with sorrow and repentance. "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so, you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge" (Psalm 51:4). "No one who (habitually) continues to sin has either seen him (Jesus) or known him." (1 John 4:6)

Even when we sin against another person, we sin first against God. And, as John writes, that should not be, cannot be, for the person who has Jesus living in them. As Pastor Doug said, we all still sin, but sin should hurt us from the inside, from our hearts. This hurt, for a Christian, should lead us back to Jesus, to the One who is willing and always ready to hear us say, "I am truly sorry." We know that when God hears us say we are sorry for our sins, he will "forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1: 9).

Remember whose you are as you go through this life. "Continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming." (1 John 2: 28)

Prayer:

Merciful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise your name for your redemption and reclaiming love. You sent your Son Jesus, to destroy the devil's work. We are redeemed, we now live in the power of the resurrection and with hope for the age to come. Thank you for adopting us into your family for all time. Strengthen us to live for Jesus, now and forevermore. AMEN

Action Item for Day/Week:

Mentally record the activities you are involved in today and if needed, spend time confessing and repenting of anything that goes against God's guidelines for righteous living.

Songs for today:

[Living for Jesus](#)