

Faith Talk - July 5, 2026

Sermon: July 5, 2026

Series: 1 John- Life in the Light and Love of God

Sermon: Abide to Be

Scripture: 1 John 3:7

Little children, let no one deceive you. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Sermon Summary

In this passage, John continues his call for believers to live in genuine fellowship with God by abiding or remaining in Christ. Our relationship with God is secured the moment we believe, but our ongoing fellowship with Him depends on staying connected to Him in daily life. John gives us three powerful actions and outcomes of abiding in Christ: confidence, freedom, and being known.

First, when we fix our hope on Jesus and His return, that hope purifies us from sin, not through gritting our teeth and trying harder, but the way good news naturally produces joy without effort.

Second, abiding in Christ frees us from sin's power because we simply cannot fix our eyes on Jesus and live in habitual sin at the same time; seeing Him and knowing Him produce a life that looks like Him.

Third, abiding in Christ makes us known; our righteousness becomes visible and obvious to those around us, not because we announce it, but because a born-again life lived in the light of God stands out from a world living in darkness.

Conversation Questions

Conversations with Adults

- John says fixing our hope on Christ's return purifies us from sin almost naturally, the way good news makes you happy without trying. What does it look like practically to "fix your hope" on Jesus in the middle of an ordinary week?
- Have you ever experienced being misunderstood by people outside the faith because of how you live or what you believe? How did you respond, and what did that feel like?
- Between the three outcomes John describes confidence before God, freedom from sin, and being known as a follower of Christ which one feels most lacking in your life right now, and what do you think is getting in the way?

Conversations with Students

- John says the world doesn't understand Christians because it doesn't know our Father. Have you ever felt out of place or misunderstood at school or with friends because of your faith? What happened?
- If part of abiding in Christ means keeping your eyes fixed on Him, what are the biggest things in your daily life competing for where your eyes actually go?
- How would the people who know you best describe the way you live, and does that description match someone who is abiding in Christ?

Conversations with Kids

- Have you ever felt embarrassed or caught doing something wrong? How did that feel, and how do you think it would feel to live in a way where you don't have to be embarrassed about doing something wrong?
- John says we are God's children, not just someone He made, but someone He calls His own. What's something special about being in *your* family that other families don't have?
- If your friends watched you for one whole week, what would they say is the most important thing to you, and would that show them that you belong to God?

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that You call us Your children, not because we earned it, but because Jesus made a way for us to be born again into Your family. Thank You that You haven't left us on our own but have given us everything we need to abide in You.

We ask You to help us fix our eyes on the hope we have in Jesus, so that hope does what Your Word promises — purifying us, freeing us, and making us look more like You. Where we have been living in the flesh instead of our new nature, show us, and draw us back to abiding in You.

We commit today to staying connected — to seeing You, knowing You, and living the born-again life You designed for us, so that our lives make it obvious whose children we are. In Jesus' name, Amen.