

Share prayer requests with the small group. Ask someone to take notes and share the requests with group members after the meeting.

# Sermon Study

**How Can I Know: By This We Know We are Children of God**  
**I John 2:29; 3:4-10**

## vision

Eastview  
Christian  
Church is a  
fearless church  
of Christ  
followers whose  
ridiculous love  
and dangerous  
witness are  
irresistible.

how can we know?



*Eastview Christian Church small groups provide the optimal environment for the life change Jesus Christ intends for every person. Our groups typically have 8-14 people who **GATHER** together (Hebrews 10:24-25), **GROW** to be more Christ-like (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:14-16), **GIVE** of themselves in various ways (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16), and **GO** on to impact the world around them (Matthew 28:19).*

**Gather** (your group getting to know each other)

1. What would you say to a church member who expressed fear that he had lost his salvation?

2. Express practically how your beliefs affect your behavior.

**Go**  
(your group on mission)

The biggest lesson we should all learn from these verses is that our belief should affect our behavior. Take time in the coming week to evaluate your behavior to see if others can tell you are walking with the Lord.

**Grow** (your group growing as Christ-followers)

### Key Scripture

"If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him." (1 John 2:29, ESV)

### Key Word Study

**Righteous** (2:29) – *dikaios* - A man cannot claim genuine salvation if he is habitually living in sin. On the other hand, a man can only practice genuine righteousness because he possesses the nature of the One Who is righteous.

### Discussion

1. Have someone begin the discussion time by leading the group in prayer, then read 1 John 2:29 and 3:4-10 aloud.

2. Gnostics had invaded the church and they claimed to know God through special inner knowledge. They believed that the spirit was good and was untouched by the physical, which was evil. Therefore, they could sin flagrantly without remorse or consequences. With this context in mind, why was obedience to God so important?

3. Read the Key Word Study. Is "righteousness" in vs. 29 simply a matter of doing good deeds? Why or why not?

4. Why is ongoing, willful sin incompatible with true Christianity?

5. When a Christian sins, does he automatically lose his salvation? Read 1 John 1:8 to help with your answer. Can a Christian sin so badly God will not forgive him/her?

6. How can you describe the love of God to a person who is not a Christian? Would you be able to explain the gospel message so that he could be born again?

7. What is the strongest evidence you have that you are a born-again Christ-follower and will receive the reward of eternal life with God in heaven?

8. Read 1 John 3:10. Note that John is not stressing sinless perfection but the one requirement by which all other requirements are measured – love for one's brother. Because God is love, what distinguishes children of God from children of the devil?

**Give**  
(your group serving each other)

Discuss the doubts that some people have about assurance of their salvation. What does Satan use to confuse believers on this important matter??