

1 John 010 2021

8/15/21

The Children of God

1 John 3:1-3

I. Introduction:

A. Children

1. Personal Story:

B. Family Dynamic

1. God created in the family an interesting dynamic; though each child has their own distinct personality, they will all share a likeness to their parents.
2. God has so designed the home where parents can imprint on the lives of their children.
3. Children naturally pick up mannerisms, habits, and worldviews from their parents.
4. Some more than others, but they all take part of their parents with them in life.

C. Children of God

1. The same is true concerning the children of God.
2. The moment we were saved by faith in Jesus, we were adopted into the family of God.
3. God the Father adopted us by the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. Thus the saved became children of the living God.
5. Family Dynamic – Righteousness: God has imprinted on us as His children by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. It's natural for God's children to be like their Father
6. The likeness of God we are to emulate is His righteousness. (1 John 2:29)
7. A true child of God practices righteousness by nature because they are a new creation.

II. Children of God (1 John 3:1)

A. The love of God

1. John begins with a statement of amazement.
2. The word "behold" means there is something marvelous to examine and consider.
3. That marvelous and amazing thing to consider is God's love for us.
4. The Bible states at least 3 things about the love of God that make it utterly amazing.
 - (1) – Quality of God's love
 - a. This is Greek word *agape*. Agape love is a choice to love someone irrespective of their worthiness to be loved.
 - b. Agape love demonstrates affectionate regard, good will, & benevolence toward one being loved. Love's object may be rebellious & unworthy of such consideration.
 - c. Agape love is the unmerited favor of God on our lives. It is an amazing love.
 - (2) – Goal of God's love
 - a. For us to be called the children of God, our sin debt had to be paid.
 - b. God the Father was willing to give the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. (John 3:16)
 - c. God's love moved Him to give the most precious thing in heaven, His only Son.
 - d. Jesus died on the cross because God the Father loves us.
 - e. Jesus died on the cross because as God, He loves us.
 - f. Goal of God's love has always been to restore us to intimate fellowship with Him.
 - g. The goal of God's love has always been to make us His children in His family.
 - (3) – God's love is free.
 - a. We cannot earn or merit God's love. We cannot earn salvation.
 - b. God chose to love us in eternity past, before man was here.

- c. The free pardon of sin & adoption into the family of God is received by faith, wholly apart from any works or merit on our behalf.
 - d. We cannot earn our way into God's family.
- B. Reasonable response**
 - *The objects of such an amazing love should reasonably respond in two ways.*
 1. – Accept God's gracious offer
 - a. The first response should be to accept God's gracious offer & thus to get saved!
 - b. We deserve judgment & eternal punishment for our sin, but God loves us so much He made a way for us to be saved.
 2. – The obligation of righteousness
 - a. Those who are saved have been adopted into the family of God as the sons & daughters of God.
 - b. We should do nothing less than offer our lives a living sacrifice to Him. **Rom. 12:1-2**
- C. Unrecognized by the world**
 1. As the children of God the world does not recognize us. **(1 John 3:1)**
 2. A trial of our faith is the world does not recognize nor care we're the children of God.
 3. The world rejected Jesus the first time He came here.
 4. The world today rejects God & His holy moral law, thus it's no surprise it rejects us.
- III. The reality of our current state (1 John 3:2)**
 - A. Now we are the children of God.**
 1. We live in this sinful world in a body that has been compromised by sin.
 2. God created Adam to live forever in this flesh and blood body.
 3. When Adam sinned disobeying God, creation was cursed by sin, including our bodies.
 4. In this life, in this body, we are far from what God intends us to be one day.
 5. Consider our lives here:
 - a. These bodies are dust; death is ever before us.
 - b. These bodies are weak and grow weaker every day.
 - c. We are beset by miseries and troubles on every side.
 - d. We struggle with temptation and sin always.
 - e. Christian life in this world's a battle, if we live for Jesus we're in the fight every day
 6. Children of God: Our adoption into God's family is a present possession with a future full realization.
 - B. Fully manifested**
 1. Time's coming when we'll realize full possession of all God has promised us **(1 Jn 3:2)**
 2. – When?
 - a. This great change will take place when Jesus returns.
 - b. This speaks specifically to the rapture of the church. Christians who are alive when Jesus raptures the church will be changed instantly into their resurrection bodies.
 - c. Christians who've died physically will be raised from grave in resurrection bodies.
 2. – What?
 - a. When Jesus returns the change that will take place is: **"We shall be like Him."**
 - b. That means we'll have a resurrection body like His, not be equal with Him
 - c. We will receive an eternal body that will never grow old, never be touched by death, and never be susceptible to sin.
 - C. We shall see Him as He is.**
 1. We cannot see Jesus with our physical eyes right now.

2. In fact, Paul said we see darkly right now, as if through a glass. (**1 Corinthians 13:12**)
3. As God's children, we know Jesus today, & have a relationship with Him by grace through faith.
4. But on the day we see Jesus in our resurrection bodies, all will be made clear.
5. We'll see & understand all that this sinful mortal life's limitations have shaded.

IV. The inference drawn (1 John 3:3)

A. The motive for purity

1. Everyone who has this hope, the promise of seeing Jesus one day as He is, will naturally seek purity and holiness in this life.
2. If Jesus is our greatest desire in this life, it'll naturally lead us to desire purity, holiness, and righteousness.
3. We know that Jesus is holy & all who'll have fellowship w/Him must be holy as well.
4. Jesus had made us positionally holy.
5. We're to pursue practical holiness in life as we desire to see Him face to face one day.