

Becoming the Children We Already Are
1 John 3:1-3

The book of 1 John is a book that has been an encouragement to me and a book that I have spent a great deal of time in recently. This passage in particular, once I began looking more deeply at it, has shown some great truths to me concerning the Christian life and our identity in Christ. Because of the hope of our ultimate redemption in Christ, we ought to be encouraged to be the types of people God wants us to be right now.

I. We have been made children of God (vs. 1)

Children of God - **John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16-17**

A. Because of God's Love

Behold - this word is a command which is "look at this, see"

What manner - ποταπός, potapos - what sort or kind; what wonderful. Is often used in terms of what country someone comes from or what kind of people are they.

Love - the source of this love is from God. This is His expression of love for us.

John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:4-7;
Ephesians 5:2; 1 John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-10

This is the kind of love which John has asked us to consider and to look at. The kind of love that shows that God has sent His only Son to pay the penalty for our sin, to become the propitiation for us, and to give to us eternal life and thus make us a part of the family of God.

Bestowed - given. We have not earned this love, but God has given it to us.

B. The result of God's love

The result of our becoming children of God is that we become something that is different than that which is of the world. Jesus told us this would happen:

John 15:18-19; 1 John 3:13

It should not be a surprise to us if we do not fit in with the world or even if we are mocked by, persecuted, or even put to death by the world. Because we have been made children of God, we do not fit in with the children of the devil.

II. We will be made like Christ (vs.2)

A. We are now children of God

To those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ, they are now the children of God.

What is the implication of us being children of God? What should that look like?

Philippians 2:14-16; 1 John 3:10

B. We will be like Christ

1 Corinthians 15:35-54 The examples from this passage:

1. Grain vs. Plant
2. Man vs. Animals vs. Fish vs. Birds
3. Extraterrestrial Bodies vs. Earth
4. Sun vs. Moon vs. Stars
5. The Corruptible vs. the Incorruptible Body

The corruptible body:

- Dishonorable - shameful, disgraceful
- Weak - sickly, ill
- Natural - physical, material
- Earthly - made of earth/dust
- Mortal - we see this every day

The Incorruptible Body:

- Honorable - doxa - glorious, full of glory
- Powerful - dunamis - strong

- Spiritual
- Heavenly - made from (in) heaven
- Immortal

When He is revealed - when we see Him, whether in the rapture or when we die. We are going to see Christ in His incorruptible body.

We shall be like him - whatever we will be like, we know that we are going to be like Jesus Christ.

For we shall see Him as He is.

1 Corinthians 13:12

III. We should make ourselves pure (vs.3)

A. Those who have hope purify themselves

Here is the crux of the whole issue: If you have the hope of becoming like Christ in the future, then you ought to be working at becoming like Christ in the present.

Everyone - all of those who have this hope in them ought to be purifying themselves. If you say that you are looking forward to being with the Lord, you need to prove it now by acting like the Lord.

Purifies - ἀγνίζω, hagnizō - purify, cleanse

1 Thessalonians 5:4-8

Do we live our lives like we are living in the night or do we live like we are walking in the day light.

B. God is their example

Pure - ἅγιός, hagnos - pure, holy; chaste; innocent

This is the only place in the New Testament where this word is used of God. Every other instance it is used concerning how we should be behaving as Christians. We need to be living our lives in a morally pure way, free from sin.

Applications:

- Are you a child of *God*? Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ?
- As a child of *God*, do you act like a child of *God*?
- Are you living for Christ now because you look forward to being like Him in the future?
- Are you pure just as *God* is pure?