

1 John 3:1-2

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1 John 3:1

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Behold

“The apostle himself, though evidently filled with God, and walking in the fulness of his light, does not attempt to describe it; he calls on the world and the Church to behold it, to look upon it, to contemplate it, and wonder at it.” *Adam Clarke's Commentary*

1 John 3:1 relates to the previous verse in 1 John 2:29, **“If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.”** All our works of righteousness is a mere sign that God, in His love for mankind, has adopted believers as His children. God’s love initiated His salvation.

Ephesians 1:3-6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

What manner of love the Father has bestowed on us

This love the Father has given to believers is an extraordinary love that is not from one’s own works or efforts, but of His grace. Because of His mercy, we received love instead of condemnation. God sent His most precious gift, His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for our sins. His love is a great love both in quantity and quality. To think He loved us so much that He brought us from darkness to His light and we did nothing to deserve it!

Psalms 36:7-9 How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Ephesians 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us.

1 John 4:9-10 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

I know my sins alone was enough sin to put upon Jesus. But to put the weight of your sins and all those who would come to Him in faith throughout time is incomprehensible!

For a believer, can anything separate us from God's love? Why?

John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

Romans 8:38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

That we should be called children of God

God has adopted every believer into His family, made us heirs and allowed us to regard Him as our Father through faith in Jesus. It is astonishing that believers have received the privileged title of being called the children of God and treated as the children of the Most High. There is nothing in this world that could be more valuable than being adopted into God's family!

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Romans 8:14-15 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

2 Corinthians 6:18 And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

Galatians 3:26 For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

As children of God our lives should resemble our Lord's. In what ways can we resemble our Lord?

Our lives should look like our Lord's in our character and conduct. Just as a child in a family resembles his/her parents, each child of God's family begins to resemble Jesus Christ more and more.

Something to ponder: Does my life resemble my Lord?

What are some benefits you have received as a child of God?

Therefore the world does not know us

John is referring to the Jews who did not acknowledge or approve of Jesus, His doctrine, or His manner of life. They believed Him to be an imposter.

1 Corinthians 2:8 None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

What are some examples today of how the world does not understand a believer?

“The world does not understand our principles; the reasons of our conduct; the sources of our comforts and joys. The people of the world regard us as fanatics or enthusiasts; as foolish in abandoning the pleasures and pursuits which they engage in; as renouncing certain happiness for that which is uncertain; as cherishing false and delusive hopes in regard to the future, and as practicing needless austerities, with nothing to compensate for the pleasures which are abandoned.” Albert Barnes NT Commentary

“Therefore the world, who have their minds wholly engrossed with sensible objects, and have no discernment of spiritual things, knoweth us not; far from esteeming and valuing us, they deride(mock) and persecute us for that image which we bear, because it knew him not, they are ignorant of God; and when his Son appeared incarnate, they nailed him to a tree.” Thomas Haweis Commentary

Something to ponder: Is my life different than the worlds?

Because it did not know Him

“The world’s whole course is one great act of non-recognition of God.” Jamieson-Fawcett-Brown Com.

The concept of “knowing” involves more than just information. It refers to a sense of intimacy, fellowship, and connection. The unbelieving world is condemned and does not have a relationship with God the Father, Jesus the Son, or the Holy Spirit. The world and Satan love darkness and hate the light, God and His children!

John 16:3 “And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.”

John 3:18-19 “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.”

John 15:18-19 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

As believers, we are required to tell the world about Jesus even though they are hostile and do not want to hear about Him. Why is that?

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Beloved, now we are children of God

Everyone who believes and receives genuine faith is now a child of God, which results in spiritual rebirth. Being born again they have been given a new nature of heavenly origin. A nature that is foreign to the world. Thanks be to the Spirit Who bears witness that we are children of God and born into God's family. As a child of God, we become co-heirs with Christ and all that God has given to His Son in the kingdom belongs to us as His children as well. We have "*an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in heaven*".
(1 Peter 1:4)

John 1:12-13 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him.

What does it mean to you to be called a child of God?

And it has not yet been revealed what we shall be

Our future has not yet completely been revealed. Certain things will only be revealed to us once Christ returns to bring us home. This appearing can happen at any moment! As God's fully adopted heirs, we will fully experience His glory forever!

Psalm 31:19 Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

1 Corinthians 2:9 But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him".

1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

But we know that when He is revealed

God is transforming us through the process of sanctification (holiness), and this process will not be complete until we are in His presence. Believers do not see a perfect representation of God's glory now, but will one day. All of creation has been waiting with eager anticipation of the day that is coming when the great secret among mankind will be revealed. His appearing is the event that marks our ultimate transformation into glory. The Greek word, from which the English word "metamorphosis" comes, implies a change in outward appearance. In eternity with the Lord, believers will experience a new body and exist forever in God's presence. Our bodies will be made better than the state they are now in. We will live in a glorified body that will never sin, never get sick, never get tired and will never die! We will never have to struggle with all that again! Never! One day, we will be fully restored to the identity God intended for us.

Romans 8:19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

2 Corinthians 3:18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Philippians 3:20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

2 Peter 1:4 By which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

In the meantime, what are we to do until He returns?

We shall be like Him

"We shall be like him, admitted to his presence, and partakers of all his glory: for we shall see him as he is, and our bodies as well as souls shall be fashioned after his bright image. Note, The day of judgment will be a day of triumph to every redeemed soul; then at least they shall be perfected in holiness and happiness for ever." Thomas Haweis Commentary

Jesus is the exact representation of God and His nature. We cannot give glory to God unless we give glory to His Son who is the fullness of God's glory. With Christ as our pattern we will resemble the Father.

Psalm 17:15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

Romans 8:29-30 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

1 Corinthians 15:49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Hebrews 1:2-3 But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

For we shall see Him as He is

In Heaven, when we see Jesus face to face our understanding of what it means to be children of God will be expanded. We will see clearly, without a veil. We will no longer walk in faith but in sight and see things in their true light.

Job 19:26 And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.