

1 John 2:28-3:10

²⁸ And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. ²⁹ If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.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. 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. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. ⁴ Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. ⁸ He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

NKJV

The Apostle John began his letter in 1 John speaking of the Jesus he knew as a full-grown man (vv. 1-2). But now in chapter 3 of his letter he reflects upon the effects of Jesus' entrance into this world in human form. When he refers to this baby Jesus (v. 5) you don't get the idea that John is speaking of curly locks of hair, the pursed lips and delicate dimples of a newborn. **John tells of the force and power of this baby...enough, John says, to destroy the greatest power of darkness—the Devil himself!**

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (3.1) The Greek word for “called” means a formal and public announcement not to ever be revoked. **Those who place their faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ alone are forever bound by the declaration of God as His children.**

“Children” literally means “offspring,” “rightful birth,” “descendants.” There are those who have

a distinct birth who are “born of God.” (v. 9)

1 Peter 1:23-25

...having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

They have been given a second birth or have been “born again.” **The corrupt condition of their heart, along with their guilty standing before a Holy God, has been done away with by the power of Christ's forgiveness imparted to them by saving grace.** These children have been declared by God as His! They are a part of His family now, and joined together with Jesus Christ the Son of God into God's family.

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us.” (3.1) **The world cannot understand, recognize or relate to Christians or God's love.** They feel no obligation to express it.

Their love is only as big as they are...but certainly not as big as God is!

"Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him." (3.1) **Failure to know God is one of John's basic themes in his Gospel:** John 5:37, 7:28, 16:3 (*knowing the Father is knowing Christ*). Being loved by God is the ultimate reward. Believers ought not to seek the love that comes from the world.

"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." (3.2) **The unveiling of the Christian's identity, or the complete revelation of their nature, still lies in the future.** Jesus will appear (John 17:1, 5, 24) and we will become like Him! This is the message of the Apostle's "from the beginning" (1.1).

Rom. 8:29 cf.,

For whom He did foreknow He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...he also glorified.

1 Corinthians 15:47-49

The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

In the family portrait of God there sits the Father, while His Son is seated at His right hand, having completed all that He set out to do in His work of the redemption of Adam's race. Surrounding them is a host of offspring indwelt by the Holy Spirit: men, women and children alike from all tribes, tongues and nations as adopted children into His family through the grace of salvation. **There can never be a more beautiful family than the family of God. And the caption under the portrait reads "Forever."**

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How is it that a Christian has an unchangeable position before God?
2. Where is the power for the second birth from?
3. What must happen before someone can understand the love of the Father?
4. Why does the world not know the love of the Father?
5. What is the ultimate reward?
6. What will the Christian be like when he sees Christ?
7. Do you have assurance from God that you are born into the family of God apart from any meritorious work of your own? Have you ever considered what Christ speaks of in John 3 to a highly religious man who still needed to be born again?

CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Staff, Lobbyists & Capitol Community Welcome

Statehouse Room #44 ~ Wednesdays, 12:00