



We Are the Children!

August 21, 2016

Text: 1 John 3:1-

1 John 3:1--- How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.

- Not everyone is a child of God.

John 1:10-12 AMP--- He came into the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him [did not know Him].

¹¹ He came to that which belonged to Him [to His own — His domain, creation, things, world], and they who were His own did not receive Him *and* did not welcome Him.

¹² But to as many as did receive *and* welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name.

- Lavished!!! No little dab'll do you.
- We were created to be loved without condition.
- We were created in God's image where love among the Trinity is without limit and without condition.
- That is why we are so frustrated in this world.
- The world loves us **CONDITIONALLY**.
- Conditional Love is the greatest oxymoron. There is no such thing.
- When we love as He loves, the world cannot comprehend that.

1 John 3:2-3--- Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

- What we are now is wonderful; but what we shall be is even more wonderful!
- "We shall be like Him."
- This means inheriting a glorified body like His body.

Philippians 3:20-21 NLT--- But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for Him to return as our Savior. ²¹ He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like His own, using the same power with which He will bring everything under his control.

- We will share also in His eternal glory.

John 17:22--- I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one as We are one:

- But we are truly children of God who really expects Christ to return will obey His Word and keep his life clean.
- We shall see Him "as He is," but we must also "walk as He walked" and "be righteous even as He is."
- Saints are expected to purify themselves, that is, keep their hearts clean.

2 Corinthians 7:1-2 NCV--- Dear friends, we have these promises from God, so we should make ourselves pure — free from anything that makes body or soul unclean. We should try to become holy in the way we live, because we respect God.

- Love compels us to live for Jesus, not duty.

1 John 3:4-6--- Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that He appeared so that He might take away our sins. And in Him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in Him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen Him or known Him.

- Spiritually, we are just like Jesus... perfect, holy, complete.

Hebrews 10:14--- By one sacrifice He has made perfect forever, those who are being made holy.

- Our body and soul have not yet been fully redeemed... both are in process.
- Our soul (mind, will, emotion) must choose to surrender its will to His Lordship.
- When He is in control of our life, we don't sin because He is our life and we are ONE with Him.
- Occasionally, our soul refuses to surrender and we sin.
- But that sin is already forgiven.
- When the Holy Spirit convicts us... and He will... we simply confess the sin and claim our forgiveness in Christ.
- If someone continually sins without remorse or guilt, it proves that he has neither seen Him nor known Him.

1 John 3:7--- Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous.

- Not righteous act done on our own.

Romans 3:10--- "There is no one righteous, not even one."

Isaiah 64:6--- All of us have become like one who is unclean and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.

- If we do what is right, it is because Jesus is doing right in us, thru us, for us, and as us.

1 John 3:8-10--- He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. ⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

- John talks a lot about the devil in this short letter.
- The devil has been sinning from the beginning when he rebelled in heaven vs. God, before the fall of Adam and Eve.
- He is the instigator of human sin.
- Those who continue to sin belong to him and are his children.
- He is the ruler of this world and all unbelievers are under his control.
- However, he cannot harm the believer.
- On the contrary, the Christian will overcome Him.

1 John 2:13--- I write to you, dear children, because you have overcome the evil one.

- If Christ is our life, we may occasionally sin, but we cannot continue to sin because we are a new creation... Christ is our life... His DNA is our DNA.
- And Jesus cannot and will not sin.

1 John 3:11-15--- This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. ¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. ¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ¹⁵ Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.

- God is LOVE.
- If Jesus is our life, would He not be loving in us and thru us?
- Cain was a child of the devil and hated his brother because he was righteous.
- We should not be surprised that the world hates us.
- Anyone who does not love remains in death.
 - Jesus is life and love, right?
 - If you get separated from life, then you are dead, right?
 - Therefore, if you do not love your brother (family of God) you obviously are separated from LOVE and LIFE.
 - Human beings cannot love unconditionally.
 - Only God, loving and living in us, can love unconditionally.
- When we hate our brother, we are murderers.

Matthew 5:21-22 NLT--- "You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.' ²² But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

- No murderer has eternal life.
- Jesus is eternal life. Would Jesus murder?
- If you would, then Jesus is not your life.

1 John 3:16-19--- This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

- Living for Jesus is not just about keeping the rules.

- Some had the rules and didn't live by them.
- Other's didn't have the rules but did what the rules said to do.

The Sheep and the Goats

Matthew 25:31-42 MSG

³¹“When He finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take His place on His glorious throne. ³²Then all the nations will be arranged before Him and He will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, ³³putting sheep to His right and goats to His left.

³⁴“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. ³⁵And here’s why:

I was hungry and you fed me,
 I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
 I was homeless and you gave me a room,
³⁶I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
 I was sick and you stopped to visit,
 I was in prison and you came to me.’

³⁷“Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸⁻³⁹ And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’ ⁴⁰Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was Me — you did it to me.’

⁴¹“Then he will turn to the ‘goats,’ the ones on his left, and say, ‘Get out, worthless goats! You’re good for nothing but the fires of hell. ⁴² And why? Because —

I was hungry and you gave me no meal,
 I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
 I was homeless and you gave me no bed,
 I was shivering and you gave me no clothes,
 Sick and in prison, and you never visited.’

⁴⁴“Then those ‘goats’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn’t help?’

⁴⁵“He will answer them, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me — you failed to do it to me.’

⁴⁶“Then those ‘goats’ will be herded to their eternal doom, but the ‘sheep’ to their eternal reward.”

- Faith is an action word.

1 John 3:19-20--- This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and He knows everything.

- When our heart condemns us, God knows our hearts.
- He knows that our soul and body is not redeemed yet and that we are struggling.
- We know Jesus lives in us when we are aware of our struggling and the Spirit draws us back to Him.

- We don't let our lack of perfect performance drive us away from Him, but instead we allow it to motivate us to run jump into His arms.

1 John 3:21-24--- Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from Him anything we ask, because we obey His commands and do what pleases Him. ²³ And this is His command: to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded us. ²⁴ Those who obey His commands live in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: We know it by the Spirit He gave us.

- Verse 21 promises that the Christian with an assured heart can pray with boldness (confidence).
- If there is sin in our hearts, then we cannot pray with confidence.

Psalm 66:18--- If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

- But when the Holy Spirit within convicts me of this sin, and I may confess it and get back into fellowship with the Father.
- Whenever a Christian is out of fellowship with another Christian, he or she cannot pray as one should.
- 1 Peter 3:1-7 shows how this applies to the Christian home.

1 Peter 3:1-7--- Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. ⁴ Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ⁵ For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, ⁶ like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. ⁷ Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

- The secret of answered prayer is obeying God and seeking to please Him.
- By doing so we abide in Him, and when we abide in Him, we may pray with power.

John 15:7-8--- If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸

- In vs. 23 we see that faith and love go together.
- If we trust God, we love one another.
- We love the saints because we are all one in Christ and because we seek to please the Father.
- The indwelling Holy Spirit yearns to unite all believers in a wonderful fellowship of love, the kind of spiritual unity Christ prayed for in John 17:20-21.

John 17:20-22--- "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me."

- Since God abides in us by His Spirit, we ought to abide in Him by yielding to the Spirit and obeying the Word.
- People who claim to be born of God, but who repeatedly disobey the Word and have no desire to please God, ought to examine themselves to see if they are really born of God.

(from Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the New Testament. Copyright © 1992 by Chariot Victor Publishing, an imprint of Cook Communication Ministries. All rights reserved.)