

The First Epistle of John

(Week 26 – 1John 3:1)

- I. **Review: Are you waiting for His return? (1John 2:28-29)**
- A. **When He returns:**
1. All the dead shall rise (John 5:28-29)
 2. Motives and secrets will be exposed (1Cor. 4:5)
 3. The universe will vanish and the earth will be laid bare (2Peter 3:10)
 4. The righteous will rise up towards Christ (1Thess. 4:16-17)
 5. The unrighteous will be punished (2Thess. 1:7-9)
- B. **Be ready, being found practicing righteous as one who has been born of Him (1John 2:28-29)**
- II. **Continuation**
- A. **The power of love! (part 1)**
1. **When someone deeply loves you, it gives you motivation and hope!**
 2. **The feeling of being unloved or being rejected by someone you love can be very depressing and disheartening!**
 3. **Although human love is wonderful, God’s love is far greater!**
 - a. **God’s love is the most powerful life-changing force in all the world!**
 - b. **Paul said it is the love of Christ that controls us, and since He died for us, we died to ourselves and live for Him (2Cor. 5:14-15)!**
 - c. **Paul prayed for the Ephesians for them to know the depth of God’s love:**
 - i. **Ephesians 3:14-19 (ESV), “*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, (15) from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, (16) that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, (17) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, (19) and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*”**
 - **Although the apostle, Paul, does not mention what the breadth, length, height, and depth is referring to, most likely these dimensions were pointing to the love of God in Christ, since “love” is mentioned in verses 17 and 19.**
 - **Question: How does the love of Christ surpass knowledge?**
 - **No one would ever die for a criminal, yet Christ died for sinners like you and I (Romans 5:6-8)**
 - **As the sacred song says: “Amazing love, how can this be, that you, my God, would die for me?”**
 - d. **Our goal, as disciples, is to let people know of this amazing love that God has for them!**

B. John just finished saying in 1John 2:29, “If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him”

- 1. The thought of having been born of God caused John to say the following...**
- 2. 1John 3:1, “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”**

a. The apostle John was one of the most blessed men in history!

i. Many of the prophets longed to see and hear what John heard and saw (Matthew 13:16-17)

- He spent three years as one of the closest disciples of Christ; He had heard Jesus’ teachings
- He witnessed many miracles performed by Christ
- He witnessed the transfiguration of Christ (Mt. 17:1ff)
- He witnessed the resurrection and ascension of Christ

ii. Now, John is an old man!

- If we were to ask him: “John, looking back in your life, what stands out the most?”
- His reply would be “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are!”

b. The term “See” in 1John 3:1 is both an exclamation and a command!

i. “See” is an exclamation because God’s love should amazes us!

- When you get something new (a car, a house, etc.) there is an excitement, but over time, the excitement fades and it becomes a distant memory!
- But the love of the Father is an experience that should grow stronger and stronger over the years as it dominates over every aspect of our lives!
- The love of the Father should:
 - Dominate our thoughts and behavior
 - Motivate us to serve God and live holy lives
 - Fill us with awe in worship that He, the Holy God, should save a self-willed rebel like me!

ii. “See” is a command because it instructs us to think and meditate on the kind of love the Father has given to us!

- If you had a friend in another town or country and you never thought of him and never communicated with him, that friendship would fade and have not have much importance in your life!
- In order for a friendship to be of great significance, you must often think and communicate with that person!
- This also takes effort:
 - If we do not deliberately take time out to meditate on God’s love, His great love will be crowded out of our minds and lives!
 - a. Have a daily meeting time with God in study and prayer!**
 - b. Be consumed in God’s ministry!**