

The First Epistle of John

(Week 27 – 1John 3:1-2)

- I. **Review: The power of love! (part 1)**
- A. 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.*”
1. The term “*See*” as an exclamation:
 - a. New things, over time, become old and the excitement of having it fades; not so with the love of the Father!
 - b. 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!
 2. The term “*See*” as a command:
 - a. John calls us to take a look of the love that has made us become children of God!
 - b. We must often think and meditate on the kind of love of the Father has for us!
- II. **Continuation**
- A. **The power of love! (part 2)**
1. The love of the Father is “*given to us*”
 - a. It is not something we deserved!
 - i. In Romans 5:6, 8, 10, we were
 - Weak (helpless)
 - Ungodly (i.e., our minds were not God-ward, but us-ward, we were all about “me, myself and I”)
 - Sinners
 - Enemies of God
 - ii. His love is a gift, not something we earned!
 - iii. What we earned was condemnation (cf. Romans 6:23a)
 - iv. But His great love was “*given to us*” while we were in an awful state!
 - b. God is under no obligation to save us!
 - i. He could have left us, as He left the fallen angels, with no way of salvation!
 - ii. He justly “*committed them to chain of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment*” (2Peter 2:4 ESV) without any chance to repent and be saved!
 - iii. But, instead:
 - He “*has given to us*” His great love so that we may be raised from spiritual death to life!
 - He, also, “*has given to us*” His great love so “*that we should be called children of God*”
 - **Parents:** When you held your firstborn – helpless, dependent and beautifully created -- you experienced, for the first time, the love of a parent for his/her child!
 - **God’s love** for you is like what you’ve experienced but far greater!

- c. **Question: How does the love of the Father affect your behavior towards others?**
- i. It teaches us to treat others as Christ treats us.
 - *“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, (13) bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”* (Colossians 3:12-13 ESV)
 - *“... forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”* (Matt. 6:12 ESV)
 - This is basically saying: “Lord, deal with me the same way I deal with others”
 - The love of the Father should cause us to love and forgive others the same way God loves and forgives us.
 - d. And since the children of God are radically different from the children of the world, you will find yourself not fitting in...
 - i. 1John 3:1b, *“...The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.”*
 - ii. This goes along with the words of Jesus in John 15:18-20a (ESV), *“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. (19) 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. (20) Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you...”*
 - For this reason, a child of God will find himself to be an alien in the company of worldly people.
 - Even their godless entertainment makes the child of God feel as a stranger and uncomfortable.
 - e. **Question: “Friendship with the world is enmity with God” (James 4:4 ESV). How then should we properly love worldly people?”**
 - i. Since the child of God does not join the world’s ungodly behavior (1Peter 4:3-4), like Jesus, he/she should make it his/her goal to bring the message of salvation to the lost.
 - ii. Jesus went into the company of sinners, not to join in their ungodliness, but to heal their spiritually sick souls (Luke 5:29-32).
 - f. Here’s something practical:
 - i. When going to a wedding, a celebration, or any event, make it your goal to share the love of the Father with the lost!
 - ii. You may be persecuted, but that’s OK; it’s because the world does not know Him or His children!

2. Even though this present world may not know us, and it may even persecute us, there is a greater outcome for the child of God in the future:
 - a. 1 John 3:2 (ESV), *“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is!”*
 - i. It is wonderful to experience the joy of salvation in this present life but the full benefits of salvation will be realized when He comes!
 - ii. We will touch on this verse more in the next class.