

1 John 3:1-3 *Behold* [Take notice], *what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon* [has given to] *us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.* ² *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be* [Beloved, we are God's children right now, but we are not yet in our resurrected bodies]: *but we know that, when he* [Jesus] *shall appear, we shall be like him* [we will have a resurrected body]; *for we shall see him as he is.* ³ *And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

I. Introduction

A. Two themes in book of 1 John

1. Fellowship with God in chapters 1-2

a. Message from God

1 John 1:5 ***This then is the message*** *which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

b. Walking in the light

1 John 1:7 ***But if we walk in the light***, *as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

c. Importance of walking in the Spirit

2. Love of God for people and our learning to love God in chapters 3-5

a. Relationship of the heavenly Father to His children

b. Not every person knows God

1 John 4:8 ***He that loveth not knoweth not God*** [A person who does not love does not know God on a personal level]; *for God is love.*

c. Christian is in family of God – an adopted child of God

Romans 8:15 *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba¹, Father.*

d. Christian relationship with God based on love of God

B. God loves every Christian, and Jesus will come back and gather all Christians to be with Him forever (John 14:3)

¹ Abba in the Greek language is the equivalent to Daddy in English

II. Realized Love (verse 1)

A. Bestowed love

1. Word “behold” shows important point – “Look at this!” (verse 1)
2. “What manner of love ...” shows how much God loves Christian (verse 1)
3. What kind of love from God?
 - a. God’s love bestowed (freely given) to Christian
 - b. Christian called God’s child
 - c. Satan’s lie: that God does not love or accept you, or that you must earn God’s love
 - d. Christian can be secure in God’s love
 - e. God’s love is experienced by each Christian through the Holy Spirit
 - f. God revealed His love by sending His Son Jesus to live on earth

1 John 4:9 *In this was manifested the love of God* [In the following way God showed His love] *toward us, because that **God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.***

4. God is the prime mover in salvation
 - a. A Christian’s motivation to serve God can only be a response to God’s love to us

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 *For the love of Christ constraineth* [controls] *us; because we thus judge* [because this is how we see our relationship with God], *that if one died for all, then were all dead: ¹⁵ And that he* [Jesus] *died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*

- b. Christian first love is to live for Christ

B. Belonging love

1. Christian belongs to family of God
 - a. Christian called child of God (John 1:12)
 - b. Name Christian means “follower of Christ”
2. Christian status with God
 - a. Joint heirs with Christ

Romans 8:17 *And if* [we, as Christians, are God’s] *children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

- b. Christian will sit with Jesus together in heavenly places

Ephesians 2:6 *And* [God] *hath raised us* [Christians] *up together* [with Christ], *and **made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:***

- c. Christian predestined (planned before it happened) to be God's adopted child & accepted by God

Ephesians 1:5-6 *Having **predestinated** [planned before it happened] **us unto the adoption of children** by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein **he hath made us accepted in the beloved.***

- 3. World's view of Christian
 - a. World does not know or understand God
 - b. Secular society thinks Christian strange for not behaving in their excessive lifestyle

1 Peter 4:4 *Wherein **they** [unsaved Gentiles] **think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot** [the same long list of wild and destructive things that they do], *speaking evil of you:**

III. Returning Lord (verse 2)

A. Anticipated potential for change

- 1. Christian today lives in mortal human body made of flesh & blood
- 2. But Christian will have changed body in the future
- 3. Christian looks forward to a change for their body after death, or when we meet Jesus in the air (see 1 Thessalonians 4:17, below)
- 4. God is in the business of changing human life

Philippians 1:6 *Being confident of this very thing, that **he** [God] **which hath begun a good work in you will perform it** [will continue to work in you] *until the day of Jesus Christ:**

- 5. Christian predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus God's Son

Romans 8:29 *For whom he [God] did foreknow [each believer], **he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he [Jesus] might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

- 6. Now we see Jesus through a smoky mirror, but we will see Jesus face to face

1 Corinthians 13:12 *For now [in this life] we see [God working in our lives] **through a glass, darkly** [through a dull mirror]; **but then** [when we are in Jesus' presence] **face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.***

B. Actualized fulfillment for change

1. We, believers who have died and living Christians, shall meet Jesus in the clouds when He returns for His church

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we [Christians] which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

2. Christian will see Jesus in all his shining glory

- a. Three disciples had a brief look at Jesus' glory while He was still here on earth

Matthew 17:2 *And [Jesus] was transfigured before them [Peter, James, and John]: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment [clothing] was white as the light.*

- b. Jesus' appearance in heaven

Revelation 1:14-15 *His [Jesus'] head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; ¹⁵ And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.*

- c. Jesus body after His resurrection

- i. Jesus had flesh & bones after His resurrection – not a ghost or a spirit

Luke 24:37, 39 *But they [Jesus' disciples] were terrified and affrighted [by the sight of the resurrected Jesus], and supposed that they had seen a spirit. ... ³⁹ [Jesus speaking:] "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle [touch] me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have."*

- ii. Jesus actually ate some fish & honeycomb in the disciples presence

Luke 24:42 *And they [the disciples] gave him [Jesus] a piece of a broiled fish, and [a piece] of a honeycomb.*

3. Every Christian will have a changed body

1 Corinthians 15:50-51, 53 *Now this I [Paul] say, brethren, that flesh and blood [our earthly body] cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery [mystery: something hidden that can only be known if God reveals it]; We [Christians] shall not all sleep [physical death of a Christian's earthly body], but we shall all be changed, ... ⁵³ For [us to inherit the kingdom of God,] this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

4. Glorification: A Christian's new body after death

Philippians 3:21 *Who shall change our vile [earthly, mortal, corruptible] body, that it may be fashioned like unto his [Jesus'] glorious body, according to the working whereby he [God] is able even to subdue all things unto himself [is able to make everything the way He planned it to be].*

5. Christian's new body is physical & immortal – it cannot get sick and/or die

6. God has prepared marvelous things in heaven for Christian

1 Corinthians 2:9 *But as it is written, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."*

IV. Ready Church (verse 3)

A. Motive of hope

1. Christian will see Jesus (see 1 Peter 1:8)
2. Christian has hope of life in Christ
3. God's love & hope causes Christian to live as if we're preparing for His return at any time

B. Action of hope

1. In Moses' law, priests washed before offering sacrifice to God in the Tabernacle of Temple
2. Christian has responsibility to live clean life
 - a. Christians come close to God by cleaning their hands & purifying their hearts through confession

James 4:8 *Draw nigh [near] to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*
 - b. Christian to keep himself pure & not participate in any person's sins

1 Timothy 5:22 *Lay hands suddenly on no man [Do not lay your hands on a man to be your spiritual leader (pastor, missionary, evangelist) unless you have seen his lifestyle long enough to know he's not fake], **neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.***
 - c. Christian purifies their soul by obeying the truth

1 Peter 1:22 *Seeing **ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned [sincere] love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:***

V. Conclusion

A. Sanctification

1. Sanctification means to make decisions in your soul, mind, & heart that your body will live a life set apart for God
 - a. Obey the Word of God
 - b. Obey the Holy Spirit of Truth
2. Christian to live a holy life

B. Why live holy life?

1. God has called Christian to live holy in their lifestyle in secular society

1 Peter 1:15 *But as he [God] which hath called you [each Christian] is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation* [in every situation in your life];

2. Because God is holy

Leviticus 11:45 *For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*

Matthew 5:48 *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

1 Peter 1:16 *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*