

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of 1 John

Chapter 12- Sons of God **1John 2:29-3:3**

98. Being in the Family- Part 3

WAOY Wednesday 10/10/07

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "Being in God's Family". So, let's turn in our Bibles and read **1John 2:29- 3:3** again together:

29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

3:1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Now on the last broadcast- we were going over just what John was saying here in these four verses and we began to look at just what it means to be in the Family of God. And on today's broadcast, I want us to look again at verse 1 of Chapter 3:

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Now as I said last time- this verse is the theme of this entire Epistle and in fact- this verse is the theme of the entire Bible- that God's Love toward us has made us children of God.

Now today as we continue to explore just what it means to actually be a child of God- I want to look carefully at the last part of

verse 1:

... For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Now John says here that because God's Love has been bestowed upon us and because this love has brought us Salvation and has brought us into the family of God as God's children- John says that the lost, unsaved pagan world will not know us; they will not understand us; they will not agree with us; they will not enjoy what we do and what we stand for.

Now why is this? Why doesn't the world know or understand or agree with us since we have been saved? Why would *anyone* be dismayed at someone becoming a Christian? Why wouldn't *everyone* delight in a soul who was lost being saved?

The truth is that saved people operate in an entirely different kingdom than lost people. And that isn't because we are better than lost people but simply because our eyes have been opened and theirs are still closed. Our ears are tuned into the heavens, and we can hear God's Voice- but their ears hear only the noise and sounds and voices of this present world. Our heart is aflame with love for God and an overwhelming desire to love and serve and obey Jesus Christ- while their hearts are still in love with themselves and with sin and they desire to do what is right in their own eyes.

Now we are still living here on earth all right. And we still look something like we did before we were saved- I mean we're still just as tall and just as overweight as we were before we were saved. We still live in the same house, and we still go to work at the same job, and we still shop at the same stores. But we no longer belong here on the earth. We are no longer simply a citizen of the earth or of America or of Mississippi. We now have a *dual* citizenship. We are citizens of the earth and of America and as such we are right to be patriotic and to be involved in the great issues of our day and to vote and pay taxes and to earn a living and buy things.

But now that we are saved- in addition to being a citizen of this world- we are also a citizen of a heavenly kingdom- which is going to be our everlasting home and as such- we are now strangers and pilgrims just passing through this life- this world is not our home.

And it is this second citizenship that those who are not saved do not and cannot understand. For example- before we were saved- we formed our opinions based upon what seemed good to us and what benefitted us personally. But now that we are saved and have the divine nature in us- we want to please God and we form our opinions on the issues before us based upon what God has revealed in Scripture- not based upon what seems good to us and we form those opinions and positions so that God may be glorified- regardless of how it may affect us personally.

I was speaking with a Hollywood actor and an attorney from the ACLU one day on a radio program in New Orleans and the attorney told me that my stance on life was inconsistent. I asked him, “How so?” He said that on the one hand I am against abortion and yet on the other hand I am pro death penalty for murder and that stance was logically inconsistent with being pro-life.

And I thought that he was going to fall out of his chair when I agreed with him. My stance on life is both logically and intellectually inconsistent. But then I showed him that my stance on life was not based upon human logic nor was it based on intellectual reasoning- but my stance on life was based upon the inspired, infallible Word of the living God and that according to **Genesis 9:6** that God Himself was pro-death penalty in the case of murder and yet at the same time- based upon hundreds of other Scriptures- life begins at conception- and it is the very definition of evil to hack unborn babies into pieces in the name of choice and that any society who condones and engages in this action is immoral and barbaric.

Here’s another example. We are told in God’s Word to obey the laws of Man- even the ones that trouble us and with which we disagree. The Bible teaches that Government is of God and as such we are to value it and honor it and obey it and support it- even that Government that we find to be wrong and even evil. In God’s Wisdom- God said that bad Government is better than no Government. We must remember that Jesus Christ Himself paid taxes to a Government who would crucify Him later on. So do not ever say that you don’t have to be honest about your income taxes because our Government is immoral.

But in addition to teaching us to obey the laws of Man- God’s Word also teaches that if and when the laws of man contradict the laws of God- we are then free to ignore and even disobey the laws of Man and

obey God. For example, in **The Acts 5**- the Government passed a law forbidding the preaching of the Gospel. And after that law was passed- Peter boldly stood up and said to the rulers:

... We must obey God rather than men.

And Peter then proceeded to violate that law and preach anyway. You see, Jesus Himself had commanded that the Gospel should be preached in all nations- even where it is illegal to do so. Even where it is punishable by death to do so. And Peter knew this and so he was right to ignore Man's prohibition on something that God had sanctioned and commanded.

And this is the same with us today about things like prayer. I hear every day from frustrated people about how we "*can't pray anymore*" because of what the Government has ruled. But dear Christians, neither the Supreme Court of the United States of America; nor the Congress; nor the Office of President gave anyone the power and the privilege to pray. God Almighty gave us that power and privileged and commanded us to pray without ceasing. And therefore- no institution on earth has the authority to stop us from praying.

So, we are free to absolutely ignore any law; any regulation; or any action by any institution of Man which attempts to stop; regulate or prohibit prayer. And so, I encourage everybody all the time to pray. Pray at school; pray out loud; pray at the store; pray at home; pray at the football game- pray, pray, pray.

Now don't be obnoxious; and don't be ridiculous- and don't pick a fight- but understand clearly that God sanctioned prayer and no man can "un-sanction" what God has sanctioned. And by the way- when you pray- remember to always pray in the "name of" or in the *authority* of Jesus Christ- because God doesn't even hear a prayer that is not prayed in His Son's Name.

Now many well- meaning people are petitioning Congress to sanction prayer. But that would be a tragic mistake. God has already sanctioned prayer and to wait for any Man or an institution of men to give you permission to do what God has already commended that we do is cowardice. Rest assured that Congress will do something about prayer one day. But it won't be a good thing. In the near future- they will have our children praying to Buddha on Monday's; lord Krishna on

Tuesday's; Allah on Wednesday's; Mother Earth on Thursday's and some other false god on Friday's and they still will not allow a child to pray in the greatest name under Heaven- Jesus Christ.

Rest assured, dear friends, that the people who oppose prayer- do not want any prayer at all anywhere- not in school- not in Government; not in Church; and not in your home either- so please do not try to get Man to sanction what God has already commanded. Just go ahead and pray. I mean what are they going to do to you- kill you and send to heaven forever? But please never be guilty of saying that you *can't* pray because "they" won't let you- because "they" aren't in charge.

Now be sure that you also understand that there *will* be consequences when you ignore Man's prohibition to prayer. John and Peter and the others were beaten when they ignored the law of Man and preached the Gospel anyway- and you might be beaten too. They were imprisoned- and you might be imprisoned also. They were stripped and everything they owned was taken from them- and if you pray without ceasing- this might well happen to you. So don't make the mistake of thinking that because you do what is right- that no evil will befall you. These men in the Bible obeyed God and they suffered for it- so will we. So, we do what is right- because it pleases God- not because we get rewarded for it.

But when this happened to these men in the Bible- they didn't whine and bellyache about how mean the Government was. They didn't write Caesar a letter protesting how they were treated and they didn't boycott the Roman stores either. No, these men thanked God for the honor and the privilege of suffering as a Christian and they prayed to God that with all boldness they could preach the Gospel to the point of death.

Now the world doesn't understand that. They cannot imagine why educated people would be so devoted to an invisible God- especially when it is just easier to go along to get along. But the reason that they cannot see is because they are blind. Read with me **1 Corinthians 2:12-14:**

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Now the word, “foolishness” as used here- comes from the Greek word, *mooria* (mwri/a), and does *not* mean something that is comical or laughable- but *mooria* means: *something that is absurd; or scorned; or ridiculed; and that which insults human intelligence.*

So, Paul is saying here that the things of the Spirit of God are insulting to the unsaved mind, and they are offensive to the point of them scorning them.

And this is why you can hear wicked men refer to the Bible as being superstition or fables and why you see how proud they are to have concocted the myth of Evolution which discounts Creation and a Sovereign Omnipotent God to Whom we all must stand and give account.

So, John tells us here in **1John 3:1** that because God has bestowed upon us His great Love- we are the children of God, and the lost unsaved world will not know you or agree with you or honor you any more than they knew or agreed with or honored Jesus Christ. Jesus said, **“If they have persecuted Me- they will also persecute you.”**

So don't let the rejection of the people of this world stumble you- but buck up and take heart because God's Love has brought you into His family forever.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.