

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

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

#### 100. Being in the Family- Part 5

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WAOY Friday/Monday 10/12-15/07

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 one of the children of God. And on today's broadcast, I want us to look carefully again at verse 2 of Chapter 3:

**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.**

Now on the last broadcast- we were examining the second part of this verse and today I want to look again at this second part which says:

**... and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. ...**

Now even though we are saved and have been adopted into the family of God- many times it strains us to believe that. Sin overpowers us; temptation is thrown at us, and we struggle with life and with sin and with our own flesh and there are times when it appears that we are *not* what we say that we are.

In what has been called- “The Greatest Letter Ever Written”- the **Epistle of Romans**- Paul said the same thing as John when he wrote this in **Romans 8:20**:

**For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope**

Now when Paul talks about “creation” here- he was referring to us- you and me. We are the creation who has been made by the Creator. And Paul says here that we were subjected to futility or the uselessness of sin.

But why are we subjected to sin? We are subjected to sin because while it is true that our souls have been redeemed- our bodies have *not* been redeemed. And this sinful world has not been redeemed; and the devil who roams all through this world has certainly not been redeemed.

So, we are subjected to unfairness and evil and wickedness and temptation and injustice every single day. And if we stopped right here, we would be most miserable. But we *cannot* stop with this subjection to sin because God did not stop with it. God’s Word says that not only are we subjected to sin- but we are also subjected to hope. Look at **1Corinthians 10:13**:

**No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.**

You see, the promise of Scripture is that to the same degree that we are tempted- a way of escape out of that temptation has been provided to us by God. Strong temptation has been countered by strong hope. Unbelievable tragedy and sorrow have been preceded by unbelievable Grace and ongoing Mercy so that even when it looks like

we surely can't make it through something- and even when we ourselves think that we will fall- we don't. And this is not because we are brave or even strong- but we don't fall because 24 hours every day and 7 days every week the God the Holy Spirit- Who lives inside every believer joins in with God the Son- Who sits at the Right Hand of the Majesty on high are interceding to God the Father on our behalf.

So, John says that due to the abundance of our circumstances- it does not always appear what we will be when we stand before God in Glory. And the writer of Hebrews also spoke about this in **Hebrews 2:6-9**:

**6** But one has testified somewhere, saying, "*WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?*

**7** "*YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;*

**8** *YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.*" For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.

**9** But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, *namely*, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

So even though we don't always see everything put under subjection to us- we see Jesus- Whom God has appointed to be both the Instrument by which all things were made and the Heir of all things that are made. So, Jesus is the blazing Center of Gods' Glory; He is the exact Representation of the very Character and Nature of God Himself and after Jesus purged our sins all by Himself- He sat down in victory at the Right Hand of God.

Now keep in mind that John was also talking about Heaven here. But even though we are saved- we really don't know what Heaven is going to be like and what we will be like in Heaven. There is very little that God revealed to us in Scripture about the details of Heaven. I know that many people have supposedly had visions where they were taken up into Heaven and saw great and mighty things and wrote about them in various books- but we cannot, and we must not place any

credibility on those things in the least. Those people may be very sincere and may be saying what they honestly believe to be the Truth- but we must be careful brothers and sisters to base what we believe on Scripture and on Scripture alone because nothing else that anybody has ever said or sung about or prophesied or written down beside Scripture is inspired or God breathed. And nothing beside Scripture should be used to formulate our Doctrine. That is what the Reformers called the Doctrine of Sola Scriptura- which is Latin for “From the Scriptures alone”.

Everything else written down by any other man- whether he was saved or not- is at best in need of some type of editing. It may be interesting, and it even may be useful in some way- but nothing besides Scripture should ever be used to formulate what we believe.

But Scripture and Scripture alone is unique in that it alone is inspired; infallible; inerrant; authoritative; relevant; and eternal. Nothing else can make that claim and so nothing else is profitable to use for the development of Doctrine. Church decrees; papal bulls, writs and edicts; prophecies; dreams; visions; angelic visitations; direct communication from God; and Church councils have all erred horribly in the past and have been so wrong and so off base that we look back on them now and wonder how anyone could have thought they were communications from God- and yet at the time- everybody just *knew* they were right and true.

So, we cannot be so naïve and childish to think that we could not be just as wrong and just as off base as they were- even though we may be just as sincere as they were. So, when we want to know what Heaven will be like and what we will be like in Heaven- we are left with Scripture and Scripture alone- and that is enough. Anything and everything else is pure conjecture.

God spoke much more about hell in the Bible than He did about Heaven. He spent much more time telling us what *not* to do than He did on what to do. And He did that on purpose.

We know from Scripture that Heaven is the dwelling place of God. We also know that when we get to Heaven- we shall be like the angels and be neither male nor female. I don't know how we will know each other but somehow, we will.

But here is the best thing. John says that even though it isn't always clear what we shall be when we get to Heaven- He also said-

**... We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.**

So, when Jesus appears suddenly- in an hour that we think not- as a thief in the night- we shall be like Him- because we shall see Jesus just as He truly is.

So based upon what John says here- it is important that we develop an accurate picture of Jesus based upon what God reveals about Christ in Scripture. I hear people say all the time, “*My Jesus would never do this or that*”. Or they assign some abstract quality about Jesus that may or may not even be true.

But in some sense- these people may be telling the Truth about “their” Jesus not doing thus and so because the Jesus that these people know about is *not* the Christ that God has revealed to us in His Word. Many people have formulated their concept of Who Jesus is and what Jesus will and will not do based upon what they *want* Jesus to be- not what God says that He actually is.

We have to remember, beloved that in addition to Jesus actually being God wrapped in human flesh- Jesus was a real live Person. He actually was born in Bethlehem, and He lived in Nazareth and did many things and was crucified and rose from the dead and met with His disciples for forty days prior to His physically ascending into Heaven.

And we have the written record of what He did and said from four different perspectives which are called the Gospels. And we have detailed, and articulate explanations of what Jesus did and how what he did affects human beings written for us in the 21 New Testament Epistles.

The Gospel accounts of **Matthew, Mark, Luke** and especially **John** have been attacked and their credibility has been questioned thousands of times over many centuries and yet after being in print for 2,000 years and after discovering nearly one million archeological findings- not one person, place, dates, or events mentioned in any of the Gospels have ever been disproven.

So John wants us all to formulate what we believe about Jesus and what we believe about His Character and Nature and what He loves and what He dislikes and what He said and what He meant by what He said and how he handled circumstances – John wants us to

formulate all of those things from Scripture- so that they will be accurate.

And John also wants to comfort us here so that we will know that even though Heaven is a mystery to us and there are many unanswered things about eternity- John wants us to be comforted in that we are promised that when Jesus comes- we will see Jesus exactly as He really is because we will be like Him in the sense that we too will have an immortal body and we will spend eternity together with Christ in Heaven.

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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