

Children of God (1 John 3:1-10)

Whose love has marked and changed you? In 1 John 3:1-10, John invites us to see the out of this world love of the Father. It's a love that changes us from spiritual orphans to children. It's a love that gives us a hope worth living for. How do you know if you've received the love of the Father? Family resemblance. Children of God desire to live and love like their Father.

1-Love of the Father I Becoming Family (1 John 3:1-3)

Beholding changes us to become like that which we behold. Fixing our attention on, the out of this world, love of the Father changes and grounds us. It's a love that makes us children. As children of the Father we will stand out. We won't be known or esteemed by the people and systems that reject Him. Focusing on His love gives us a hope of something far better than this life. It's this hope of full redemption that inspires and purifies us from evil here and now.

2-Family Resemblance I Resembling our Father (1 John.3:4-10)

How can we have clarity if we've received the love of the Father? Family resemblance. If we've experienced a brand-new life through God, our new life will begin to grow and shine forth. We can no longer live in the old ways of life that marked us before. Living rightly before God and loving others will mark our lives.

Questions (Pray, read the passage, and pick several questions. Trust the Spirit to guide)

1. Read 1 John 3:1-10. What words or thoughts are repeated? What main points is John urging his readers to understand?
2. How do we behold the love of God? What specifically has the Father's love done for us? Who & how might God be calling you to give love to others?
3. What does it mean to be a Child of God? How has this change of identity shaped your life? How has it joined and drawn you to people? Has it ever separated you from people or activities?
4. What is our future hope as Children of God? How does this future hope shape our present?
5. Read vs.4-10. What is the test John is laying forth? How can you know whose family you are a part of?
6. John writes that there are two opposite errors: 1. Denying you have sin (1 Jn.1:9) 2. Living Life Marked by Sin (1 Jn. 3:6). So, in light of these two errors what does it mean to honestly follow Jesus? What is a Christians interaction to sin marked by?
7. How do you see the good news of Jesus in this passage? How does it make us children? How does it bring security of our relationship with the Father? How does it enable us to live loving and righteous lives?

Pray to stand awed once again at the, out of this world, Love of the Father. The love that makes orphans children and gives hope to the hopeless. Ask God to behold this love and reflect it.