

One of my favorite portions of Scripture is 1 John 3:1-3.

*v.1 - Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. v.2 - Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. v. 3 - And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

In the very first sentence we are confronted with a love that is unlike anything we know about. It is a love that is from a different place. It is a love that only God can give to us. As sinners we do not deserve, merit or earn love from our Heavenly Father. He gives it. And for us that means we can be a child of God when we accept and receive the gift of eternal life. He takes our sin and gives us eternal life. See what I mean – “what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us”. That kind of love comes only from God.

In verse two we are to look expectantly for the Lord Jesus Christ to return. When He returns we will be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. We will be transformed to be completely Christ-like. For all of eternity to come, we will not continue in a weak and frail body or have an old nature that has a natural tendency toward sin. We are now sons of God and the total change takes place when we see Christ.

Verse three challenges us to work on becoming more like Christ now. Yes, someday we will be changed completely, but the Apostle John tells us that our goal right now, today, is to become more like Christ. So we need the hope of looking forward to seeing Christ. As we meditate on that truth it purifies us day by day. Christ wants us to live holy, separated lives. To do that effectively, we need to be thinking about our Savior. So ask yourself, “Is it my desire to be more Christ-like today?” Are we more Christ-like than we were last week, month, or year? It should be our unending desire because of an indescribable love that was bestowed upon us!

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Do you have a church to attend? Is God’s Word preached? Come anytime to our services, or give me a call if I can be of any help.