

1 John 3:1-24 **That We Should Be Called Sons of God – To Be Like Jesus**

God's Love given to Believers – We shall be Like Jesus

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

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

Children of God do not sin – Evidence for discerning our relationship with Christ

4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin.

Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

7 Little children, let no one deceive you.

He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning.

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest:

Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, (Matt 22:39)

12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.

13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren.

He who does not love his brother abides in death. 15 Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Evidence of Love

16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.

20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. 22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

Evidence of the Spirit of Truth.

24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

God's Love given to Believers – We shall be Like Jesus [1 John 3:1-3]

✠ Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! [1 John 3:1]

✧ God extended love beyond measure, by sending God the Word to the cross in the person of Jesus to provide the blood of Atonement sufficient for all time and all sin, in order to make it possible for us who believe to be called the children of God. [John 1:10-13, Galatians 3:26]

✠ Those who are worldly do not know or understand us who believe because they do not know Jesus. [1 John 3:1]

✠ Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. [1 John 3:2]

✧ We know by what is revealed in Scripture that in the resurrection we will have spiritual bodies just like the body of Jesus after His resurrection. [1 Corinthians 15:35-58]

✧ As mortals we do not have experiential knowledge, but we believe the promise of God that it will be so.

✧ When Jesus returns, we will be like Him and we will see Him as He is. [Job 19:25-27, 1 Corinthians 13:12]

✠ And everyone who has this hope in Him **purifies himself**, just as He is pure. [1 John 3:3]

✧ Faith in this hope in Jesus, is the factor that purifies the believer and provides the motivation to obey His Commandments. [Acts 15:8-9, Titus 2:11-14, 1 Peter 1:22]

✧ The natural response to God's great Love expressed in Jesus, is a great desire on the part of the believer to exercise all effort to be pure in our lives before Him. [James 4:8]

✧ Our cleansing comes by an act of the will through daily washing ourselves in the Word of God and follow His teachings. [John 15:3, Ephesians 5:26, 2 Timothy 2:21, 1 John 1:7, 9]

Children of God do not sin – Evidence for discerning our relationship with Christ [1 John 3:4-15]

✠ Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness**.

✧ You know that Christ was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

- ✧ If we sin, we demonstrate that we really do not know Jesus.
- ✧ If we abide in Christ, we will not sin because our lives are focused on pleasing God and we will carefully guard our behavior.
- ✚ Little children, let no one deceive you.
 - ✧ We are known by the fruit of our lives which loudly proclaim we are either Children of God or children of the devil. [\[Matthew 12:33-37, Luke 6:43-45\]](#)
 - ✧ Whoever sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning.
 - ✧ Christ came to destroy the works of the devil.
 - ✧ Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, just as Christ is righteous.
 - ✧ Whoever is born of God does not sin.

- ✧ By this the individual reveals whether he is a child of God or a child of the devil.
- ✧ It is not by your word or tongues that you are known, but by your behavior.
- ✧ Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God.
- ✧ Whoever does not love his brother is not of God.
- ✚ This is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. [\[1 John 3:11, Matthew 22:37-40, Mark 12:29-31, Luke 10:26-28, John 13:34-35, 15:12-17, Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:14, Ephesians 5:2, Colossians 3:14, 1 Thessalonians 4:9, James 2:8, 1 Peter 1:22, 4:8\]](#)

- ✚ The use of Cane as an example of human resentment and hatred toward his brother demonstrates the carnal nature of the worldly unloving heart.
 - ✧ It shows the stark contrast between the self-centered world and the call for Christian love for one another.
 - ✧ Therefore it is no surprise that the world hates you.
- ✚ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. [\[1 John 3:14\]](#)
 - ✧ The evidence of our Salvation (passed from death to life) is found in our love for the brethren.
 - ✧ Whoever does not love his brother **abides in death** and **does not have eternal life** abiding in him.

Evidence of Love [\[1 John 3:16-23\]](#)

- ✚ By this we know love, because **He (Jesus) laid down His life for us**. And we also ought to **lay down our lives for the brethren**. [\[1 John 3:16\]](#)
 - ✧ Jesus set the example of the kind of Love referred to in the Christian call to love one another.
- ✚ But **whoever has this world's goods**, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? [\[1 John 3:17\]](#)
 - ✧ The minimal expression of Christian love is when we meet the needs of one another.
 - ✧ This is not a command to give beyond one's ability but as one is able.
 - ✧ The Macedonian Church exceeded the minimal requirement and gave beyond their ability. [\[2 Corinthians 8:1-5\]](#)
 - ✧ John calls us to put our love into action, not just lip service. [\[1 John 3:18\]](#)
 - ✧ James made the same point. [\[James 2:14-17\]](#)
 - ✧ If our behavior demonstrates our love for the brethren, we have the assurance that our heart is right before God.
 - ✧ If our conscience makes us feel guilty after reading this teaching, we have the assurance that God is greater than our conscience, and He fully knows all things.

- ✧ If our conscience does not bother us, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight, we have confidence toward God and the assurance that whatever we ask we will receive from God.
- ✧ This is His commandment: that we should **believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another.** [1 John 3:23]

Evidence of the Spirit of Truth. [1 John 3:24]

- ✧ Now he who keeps the commandments of Jesus abides in Him, and He in him.
 - ✧ The Holy Spirit abiding in us gives us the confirmation that Christ abides in us when we keep His commandments.
 - ✧ And by this we know that Christ abides in us, when we do according to His teachings.
 - ✧ Jesus said:

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. **If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love,** just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. [John 15:7-10]

- ✧ **He who says he abides in Him (Jesus) ought himself also to walk just as He (Jesus) walked.** [1 John 2:6]