**The Children of God**

*1 John 3*

1. God’s love calls for purity. (v. 1-3)
2. God loved us so much that he allows us to be called His children. (v. 1)

* *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”* – Galatians 3:26
* World does not know us.
  + *“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”* – Colossians 3:3

1. As His children we have hope. (v. 2)

* Not yet revealed what we shall be.
  + *“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”* – 1 Corinthians 15:53 🡪
* To be like Him. (v. 3)
* This causes us to purify ourselves.

1. The Children of God and Sin. (v. 4-9)
2. Sin is lawlessness. (v. 4)

* God gave a standard.
* Whoever disobeys that standard sins.
  + No matter what the reason for sinning was.
* Christ is sinless and He came to take away our sins. (v. 5)

1. There is no gray area. (v. 6-9)

* Child of devil sins. (v. 8)
  + Continues to practice sin.
* Child of God does not sin. (v. 7, 9)
  + Does not continue in or practice sin.
  + Jesus died so we could be free from sin! (v. 8)

1. The Children of God Love. (v. 10-24)
2. Love is righteousness. (v. 10-11)

* If you hate you are of the devil. (v. 12)
  + As Cain hated Able.
    - Because Able did right and Cain didn’t. 🡪
    - Resentment or hatred because you know someone is doing right and you are not.
      * Don’t hate that brother. Love them and change your life.
* If you love you are of God. (v. 14)
  + Don’t be surprised that the world hates you. (v. 13)
  + We know we have life if we love.
* Hatred is murder and without eternal life. (v. 15)

1. Love is working. (v. 16-24)

* Example of Jesus. (v. 16)
  + Died for us.
* Love is charity. Giving and helping. (v. 17)
* If we love in deed and truth (not just talking the talk but walking the walk) we have confidence we are in God. (v. 18)
  + Love is more than empty words! It is action! (cf. James 2:15-16).
* This is confidence because of obedience. (v. 19-23)
  + If we have a guilty conscience, knowing we are not truly loving the brethren, we can’t fool God, He knows. (v. 20).
  + If we know we are truly loving the brethren, we have confidence we are at peace with God. (v. 21).
  + 5:2-3 if we love God we keep His commandments.
  + We can have confidence for answered prayers if we are obedient to Him.
* We know we are abiding in Him if we have the Spirit in us. (v. 24)
  + The indwelling of the word. (Practicing the word.)