

What it means to be a child of God | 1 John 3:1-10 | 6/24/18

- Introduction
 - As Christians we may not always understand the relationship that we have with God, that it is much more than a legally binding agreement or even a friendship.
 - The Bible tells us that we are children of God who are born of Him.
 - Being part of God's family shows just how special and loved we are to Him.
 - This also shows us that by being a child of God that there is a change within us once we have received His Holy Spirit. A heart change where we shift from a life of sinning and lawlessness to one of righteousness.
- Christians are children of God | 1 John 3:1-2
 - **Read 1 John 3:1-2**
 - Our salvation is founded on God's love for us.
 - When we think of how it is that we are saved, some think of it as solely a "decision" that WE make.
 - While there is a decision involved on our part (if we will believe, trust and follow Him) this isn't the reason why salvation is possible.
 - Salvation is only possible because of the love that God has for us. Without this love it is impossible for us to be a child of God or to receive His Holy Spirit.
 - Because of this love He chose us
 - Ephesians 1:4b-5
 - "...**In love** he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,"
 - Because God loved us with a love beyond measure. He chose us be His child, and to live with Him for eternity.
 - He even knew us BEFORE we were born
 - **God's love for us was there even before we drew a breath, our lives were already planned and woven by Him.**
 - Jeremiah 1:5a
 - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you;..."
 - Galatians 1:15
 - "But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace,"
 - Christ died for us out of love.
 - Romans 5:8
 - "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
 - **Even though we are undeserving sinners whom do things contrary to the nature of God, He still loved us enough to die for us.**
 - For us to be able to be His children He had to make the ultimate sacrifice, to die in our place. This was done out of love, which there is no greater act of love than this.
 - John 15:13
 - "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."
 - 1 John 4:10

- “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
 - **Reflect on this statement “your salvation is only possible because of God’s love for you”, and tell me what it means to you.**
- When we receive the Holy Spirit we become His child.
 - Some take our relationship with God as being legalistic.
 - That we simply have a legal binding contract with a “god” whom has agreed not to punish us because of some act or work.
 - With this view God is not seen as loving and certainly not relational.
 - **But instead we find that God is a relational being who is loving.**
 - God is a relational being because he IS love.
 - 1 John 4:8
 - “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
 - **God’s love for us is so strong that He sees us as His children.**
 - When we truly believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, when we have true saving faith, it is then that we receive the Holy Spirit and become a child of God.
 - John 1:12
 - “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”
 - **How significant! “nor of the will of man, but of God”**
 - Romans 8:14
 - “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”
 - Romans 8:15b-16
 - “...but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
 - **As being a child of God, this means He sees us even beyond anything that we can conceive in a parent/child relationship.**
 - As a parent I know first-hand what it feels like to love your children.
 - It is an unexplainable love that you have immediately upon their birth, in fact that love is there even BEFORE they are born.
 - This love is so strong that you would give and do anything for them.
 - **It is a sacrificial love.**
 - **God’s love for us is beyond anything we can imagine, His love for us is more than we can possibly understand.**
 - **To be a child of God also means to be part of God’s FAMILY.**
 - If we are His children, then that puts us in the loving family of God consisting not only of God but all Christians.
 - The word “family” resonates with everyone.
 - **When used it universally means and implies love.**
 - This is understood by a traditional family unit to even teenagers who have found themselves as members in a gang.
 - Family means that we are not alone and that we have others who care, love and will look after us.
 - This is what we all have as being part of God’s family.

- **Jesus was the most unique, significant and “different” person that ever lived on the earth.**
 - He didn’t blend in to look like everyone else, He was different.
 - He lived a perfect and sinless life and showed love, grace and mercy to everyone.
 - This is the life that we are to imitate, the life that we are to live by.
- **What is it that you do in your life to imitate Christ? To grow spiritually and to purify yourself?**
 - **What are the benefits to the Christian who strives to live their life to consistently purify and imitate Christ?**