

“Greatest Love of All”

I believe the children are our future

Teach them well and let them lead the way

Show them all the beauty they possess inside

Give them a sense of pride

To make it easier

Let the children's laughter remind us how we
used to be

Everybody's searching for a hero
People need someone to look up to
I never found anyone who fulfilled my needs
A lonely place to be
And so I learned to depend on me

I decided long ago never to walk in anyone's
shadows

If I fail, if I succeed

At least I'll live as I believe

No matter what they take from me

They can't take away my dignity

Because the greatest love of all is happening
to me

I found the greatest love of all inside of me

The greatest love of all is easy to achieve

Learning to love yourself

It is the greatest love of all



Eternal Life

A Study of 1 John

- John has three basic *diagnostic* tests:

ETHICAL

SOCIAL

DOCTRINAL

Marks of True Believers:

- They walk in God's *Light*, not darkness (1:6-7)
- They practice *the truth* (1:6)
- They enjoy true fellowship (1:7; cf. 1:3)
- They confess their sins (1:9)
- They keep His commandments/word (2:3)
- They walk as He walked (2:6)
- They love their brothers (2:10)

Marks of True Believers:

- They do not love the world (2:15)
- They do the will of God (2:17)
- They confess *Jesus is the Christ* (2:22-23)
- They let the apostolic truth abide in them (2:24)
- They have an anointing (2:27)
- They have confidence re: His coming (2:28)
- They practice righteousness (2:29)

1 John 3:1-3

- The Ethical Test: *Pursuing Purity*
 1. Our Present Reality
 2. Our Future Certainty
 3. Our Current Responsibility

1. Our Present Reality

- Our relationship with God
 - We are “called children of God”
 - Identity – we know we are properly related to God by spiritual (re)birth (cf. 2:29)
 - Legitimacy – *the Father* acknowledges us as His children

1. Our Present Reality

- Our relationship with God
 - We are “called children of God”
 - This is a result of His love for us
 - “How great” – astonishment; amazement; wonder (cf. Mark 13:1)
 - The amazement comes from the realization that we don’t deserve it!

1. Our Present Reality

“God loves the sinner, not because He is drawn to him by his loveliness, but because, in spite of man’s unloveliness, God sets His mind and will on seeking man’s highest good. This is what is amazing about God’s love.” (Donald Burdick)

1. Our Present Reality

- Our relationship with the world
 - The world does not know us
 - We are not part of that system anymore
 - It is anti-God; we are children of God
 - We should not love it (2:15-16; James 4:1-10)
 - We must do God's will, not pursue the lusts of the world (2:17; 1 Pet. 4:1-6)

2. Our Future Certainty

- Things we know

- A. He will appear (see 2:28; John 14:3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)

- B. We will see Him just as He is (Matt. 16:27; Mark 13:26; Rev. 1:7)

- C. We will be like Him (Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 15:50-57; Phil 3:20-21)

2. Our Future Certainty

- Things we don't know
 - A. Exactly what that will look like – “it has not appeared as yet what we will be” (Rom. 8:18-25; 1 Cor. 2:9; cf. 1 Cor. 15:35-49)
 - B. Exactly when that will happen – “when(ever) He appears” (Matt. 24:36-51; Acts 1:7; 2 Thess. 2)

2. Our Future Certainty

- *What we know and what we don't know are brought together in hope*
 - *Hope – confident assurance of what will happen because of what has happened*
- Our hope is fixed on Him, the One who has saved us and promised us a future (cf. Heb. 10:23)

3. Our Current Responsibility

- *Self-purification*

- The Motive

- The expectation of seeing in the future the One who is pure - and being like Him - should move us to be pure like Him now

- “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” (Matt. 5:8; cf. Ps. 24:3-6)

3. Our Current Responsibility

- The Meaning

- *Purifies* → to be free from sin (see 3:4-10)
- *Present-Active* verb → *continuously purifies*
- Not automatic or passive – he “purifies himself”
- Cf. “purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 4:8)

3. Our Current Responsibility

- The Model
 - “just as He is pure” (3:3)
 - “walk in the same manner as He walked” (2:6)
 - “If you know that He is righteous...” (2:29)
 - “The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (2:4)

So What?

- Do you really understand what God's love means for you?
- Do you really understand what God has done for you?
- Do you live in continuous, confident expectation of His return?
- Are you actively pursuing purity?

So What?

- How do we actively pursue purity?
 - Walk in the *Light*; practice the truth; keep His commands; keep His word; walk as He walked; love as He loved; do not love the world; do the will of God; hold to apostolic truth; abide in Him; practice righteousness
 - Know what is true -> choose to live it