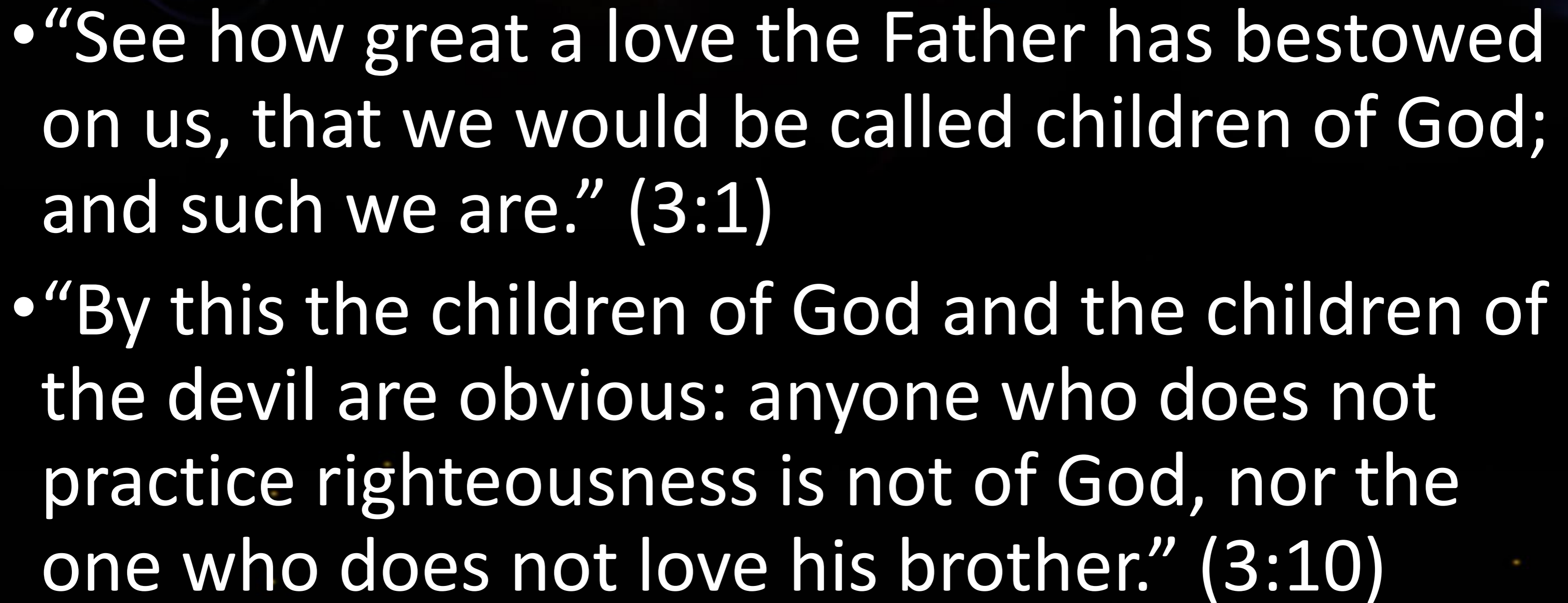


The background features a dark, starry night sky with numerous small, bright yellow and white stars. Overlaid on this are large, flowing, ethereal shapes in shades of blue and orange, resembling flames or smoke. The blue shapes are more prominent on the right side, while the orange shapes are on the left. The overall effect is a sense of movement and light against the dark void.

Eternal Life

A Study of 1 John

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- “See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.” (3:1)
 - “By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.” (3:10)

1 John 3:11-16

• *The Social Test: Do I love as God expects?*

1. *Love and Hate*

2. *Life and Death*

3. *Self-Sacrifice and Murder*

1. *Love and Hate*

- “we should love one another”
 - God’s children should love God’s children (10)
 - *Practicing righteousness means loving* (cf. Rom. 13:8-10)
 - “Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

1. *Love and Hate*

- “this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another”
 - *Loving one another* is an essential part of the apostolic message (see 2:7)
 - This truth should abide in us, which enables our abiding in the Father and the Son (2:24)

1. *Love and Hate*

- “not as Cain”
 - Gen. 4:1-16; cf. Heb. 11:4
 - “who was of the evil one” – i.e. – an obvious child of the devil (1 John 3:8, 10)
 - Lawlessness -> anger -> murder
 - A prototype of the world system (Jude 11)

1. *Love and Hate*

- “Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you”
 - The world system is built on selfishness
 - Selflessness/righteousness exposes the world system as corrupt, evil, lawless, Godless
 - Lawlessness hates righteousness (cf. John 3:19-21; 15:18-25; 17:14-19; 1 Pet. 4:12-19)

2. *Life and Death*

- “We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren”
 - We were dead in our trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1-3)
 - But God made us alive with Christ (Eph. 2:4-7)
 - The proof of this is that we love those who were also made alive (i.e. – *the brethren*)

2. *Life and Death*

- “because we **love** the brethren”
 - An attitude (decision) that results in actions
 - **Giving**, not taking; **serving**, not using; **blessing**, not exploiting; etc.
 - God’s children *do* love one another (attitude) and *should* love one another (act on attitude)
 - Both *indicative* and *imperative*

2. *Life and Death*

- “He who does not love abides in death”
 - We are either actively loving (*willing good*) or we are hating (*willing/desiring evil*)
 - *Abides – remains; permanent residence*
 - Still in the darkness (2:9)
 - Walking blindly in the darkness (2:11)
- Still part of the world system (3:13)

3. *Self-Sacrifice and Murder*

- “Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer”
 - Like Cain (3:12)
 - Anger / judgment = murder (Matt. 5:21-24)
 - Heart attitude, not simply the act
 - Willing/desiring evil on someone
 - Harboring/nurturing ill will
 - The opposite of love (1 Cor. 13:4-7)

3. *Self-Sacrifice and Murder*

- “Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer”
- Lawlessness is all about *self (idolatry)*
- *If someone is not meeting your desires or expectations, get rid of him (cf. James 4:1-4)*
 - Maybe not physical murder, but gossip, slander, enmity, strife, nursing a grudge, outbursts of anger, etc. (cf. Gal. 5:19-21)

3. *Self-Sacrifice and Murder*

- “and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him”

GOD

Life Light

Love

Self-Sacrifice

The Devil

Death

Darkness

Hate

Murder

3. *Self-Sacrifice and Murder*

- “and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him”
 - Not: “no one who has committed murder can be forgiven”
 - Anyone presently, continuously hating is demonstrating that he does not have *Life*

3. *Self-Sacrifice and Murder*

- “We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us”
 - God is Light (1:5)
 - We were in darkness / death / lawlessness
 - Jesus laid down His life for us, taking the punishment we deserve (*propitiation* – 2:2)
 - That demonstrates God’s love (Rom. 5:8)

3. *Self-Sacrifice and Murder*

- “and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren”
 - Jesus modelled God’s standard of love
 - If we are going to be like Jesus we must love like He loves (cf. 2:6)
 - We ought to live lives of self-sacrifice, just as Jesus did

3. *Self-Sacrifice and Murder*

- “and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren”
 - See Phil. 2:5-11
 - “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” (Eph. 5:1-2)

So What?

- God loved rebellious sinners like us and made us His children
 - Understanding that should bring sobriety and humility
- God calls us to love sinners just as He does
 - Look around at all the sinners!

So What?

- How do **you** react to the sinners around you?
 - *Self-sacrifice or murder?*
 - With patience, kindness, grace, compassion?
 - Or hostility, anger, a record of wrongs?
- Make a list of your relationships
 - Compare how you act with 1 Cor. 13:4-7