

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. The blue shapes are more prominent on the right side, while the orange shapes are more prominent on the left. The overall effect is one of dynamic, fluid motion.

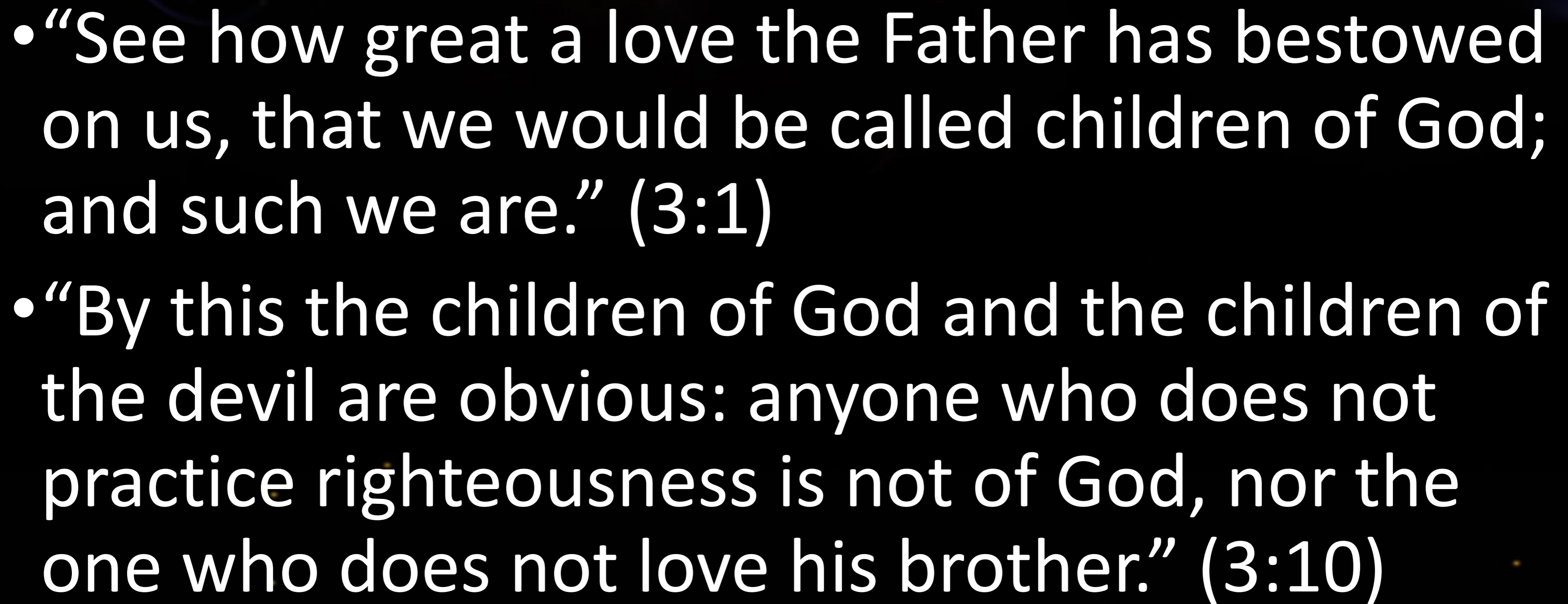
Eternal Life

A Study of 1 John



What do you think?

1. “Loving like Jesus means tolerating people.”
2. “Loving like Jesus means tolerating sin.”
3. “Loving like Jesus means fighting for *social justice*.”

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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 3:21-24

1. The Conditions for Asking (21-22)
2. The Conditions for Abiding (23-24)

“What do you mean by *conditions*?”

What does *conditions* mean?

- God has ordered the physical world to function within certain guidelines
 - E.g. – What do plants need to be healthy?
 - the right soil, the right amount of water, the right amount of sunlight, the right air quality, the right temperature, etc.

What does *conditions* mean?

- A healthy spiritual life has conditions, too
 - **Faith** – “... he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him” (Heb. 11:6)
 - **Humility** - “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6)

What does *conditions* mean?

- NOT: manipulation; merit; *quid pro quo*; etc.
- They are the right way to approach a holy God
 - We cannot come to God on our terms (cf. Cain – Gen. 4:3-15)
- They are changing us to be like Him
 - His commands express His will, which manifests His character/nature

1. The Conditions for Asking

A. A clean conscience

- See Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:8-11)
- If we are aware of sin, we need to confess it and trust that He forgives and cleanses (1:9)
- If there is nothing between us and God, we are able to come to Him with boldness
 - *Confidence* → “freedom of speech”

1. The Conditions for Asking

B. Keep His commandments

- Find out what God said and do it
 - “but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me” (John 14:31a)
- Summarized in 3:23 ->
 - Believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ
 - Love one another

1. The Conditions for Asking

B. Keep His commandments

- This shows we know Him (2:3-4)
 - And that the truth is in us
- This shows we abide in Him (3:24)
- This shows we love God's children (5:2)
- This is love for God (5:3; John 14:21, 23)
- This is how we abide in His love (John 15:10)

1. The Conditions for Asking

C. Do what pleases Him

- Two foundational *worldview* choices:
 1. “I exist to please God” or
 2. “God exists to please me”
- How do you know which you believe?
 1. “Thy will be done” or
 2. “I don’t like my current circumstances”

1. The Conditions for Asking

C. Do what pleases Him

- The desire to please God is a condition for real intimacy with God
 - “And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, **for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.**” (John 8:29)

1. The Conditions for Asking

C. Do what pleases Him

- How can we know what is pleasing to Him?
 - Do what Jesus did (John 8:29)
 - Renew your mind (Rom. 12:2)
 - Apostles' instructions (1 Thess. 4:1-2)
 - Walk in the *Light* (Eph. 5:6-13)
 - Allow God to work in you (Heb. 13:20)

1. The Conditions for Asking

C. Do what pleases Him

- Some examples from Scripture:
 - Ministry support (Phil. 4:18)
 - Obedience to parents (Col. 3:20)
 - Sanctification (1 Thess. 4:1-3)
 - Service to God (Heb. 12:28-29)
 - Doing good and sharing (Heb. 13:15-16)

1. The Conditions for Asking

- A. A clean conscience
- B. Keep His commandments
- C. Do what pleases Him



**Receive
what you
ask for**

- The more we know/obey/please Him, the more we will desire what He desires, so we will ask for what He wants (see 5:14-15)

So What?

- This is not about us changing the mind of God, this is about God changing us (see 3:2-3)
- Anyone who comes to God humbly asking in faith for what God desires will be heard
 - “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” (John 15:7)

So What?

- The more we adopt *the truth* and allow it to change our thinking to be in line with God's will, the more we will be prepared to love in the way that God loves
- ... and the more boldness we can have in asking for things from God, because we will ask for things that are more in line with His will and the good of the ones we love

So What?

- This will affect:
 - Our attitude towards others
 - How we pray for ourselves and others
 - What we do for ourselves and others
 - Our evangelism
 - Everything!