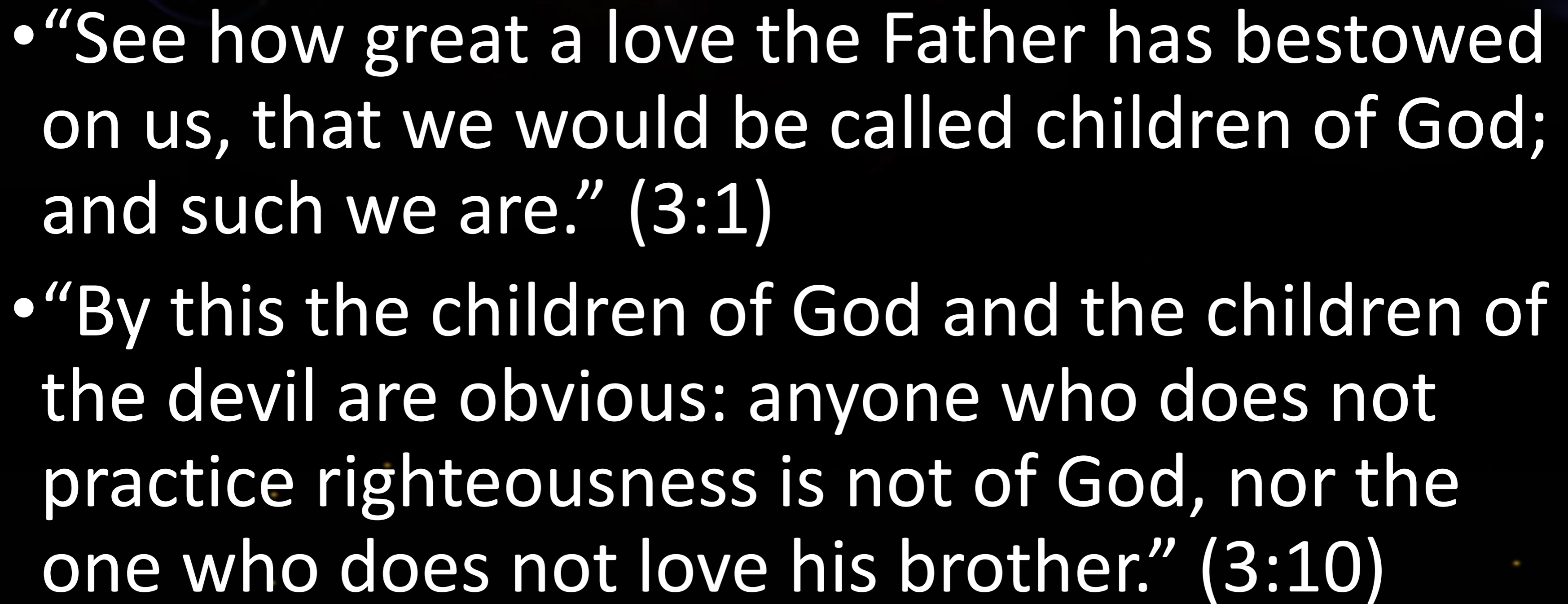




Eternal Life

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 3:23-24

- *Intimacy with God*

1. The Conditions for Abiding
2. The Indication of Abiding

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)
 - “... But to this one I will look, to him who is **humble and contrite of spirit**, and who **trembles at My word.**” (Isa. 66:2b)

1. The Conditions for Abiding

- John summarizes all of God's expectations into one *commandment* with two parts:
 - A. *Believe* (the truth - Doctrine)
 - B. *Love* (practicing the truth - Ethics)
 - Cf. *faith working through love* (Gal. 5:6b)
- Then he reminds us of the role of obedience:
 - C. *Keep His commandments*

1. The Conditions for Abiding

A. *Believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ*

- “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who **believe in His name**” (John 1:12)
- “...so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have **life in His name.**” (John 20:31)

1. The Conditions for Abiding

A. Believe in *the name* of His Son Jesus Christ

- Position / Authority – Eph. 1:20-23; Phil. 2:9
- Power – Acts 3:6, 12, 16
- Character – cf. *Nabal* -> *Fool* (1 Sam. 25:25)
- Disposition – cf. *Mara* -> *Bitter* (Ruth 1:19-21)
- A name represents all of who a person is/does
 - E.g. – “I AM WHO I AM” (Ex. 3:14)

1. The Conditions for Abiding

A. Believe in the name of *His Son Jesus Christ*

- “For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, **but also** was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.” (John 5:18)

1. The Conditions for Abiding

A. Believe in the name of *His Son* Jesus Christ

- *Equal with God*

- Divine also, but not a lesser god or *aeon*

- “the Word was God” (John 1:1)

- “He is the image of the invisible God...” (Col. 1:15-20)

- See 1 John 2:23; 4:14-15

1. The Conditions for Abiding

A. *Believe in the name of His Son **Jesus** Christ*

- Emphasizes His humanity (see Acts 2:22)
 - “since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same” (Heb. 2:14)
- Mediator between God & men (1 Tim. 2:5)

1. The Conditions for Abiding

A. *Believe in the name of His Son Jesus **Christ***

- “Anointed One” i.e. – *Messiah* (see John 1:41; 4:25)
 - Prophet, Priest, King – see *Hebrews*
 - Promised in the OT – Luke 24:25-27
 - Savior – Luke 2:11

1. The Conditions for Abiding

- Why is this so important?
 - Biblical, apostolic Christianity identifies Jesus of Nazareth as the pre-existent Word of God who became man in space-time history to redeem fallen mankind through His propitiatory death and resurrection
 - Anything that denies this is not Christianity!

1. The Conditions for Abiding

B. Love one another

- Shows we abide in the light (2:10)
- Shows we are God's child (3:10; 4:7)
- Shows we have passed into life (3:14)
- Shows we are of the truth (3:18-19)
- Shows we know God (4:8)
- Is the fulfilment of the law (James 2:8)

1. The Conditions for Abiding

C. Keep His commandments

- Requires knowledge, faith, humility, and love
 - Reminder / restatement of 1:5-7 & 2:3-6
- Both a *condition* and a *result* of abiding (see John 15:5-10) -> *perpetuation*
- “abides in Him, and He in him” -> mutual, mystical union (cf. John 14:23)

1. The Conditions for Abiding

- “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and **will disclose Myself to him.**” (John 14:21)
- “Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, **and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.**” (John 14:23)

1. The Conditions for Abiding

- Moses: “Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight” (Ex. 33:13)

2. The Indication of Abiding

- “We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us”
 - The children of God are *obvious* (3:10)
 - Is this now a *subjective* proof?!
 - If so, why doesn't he say what it is?
 - Couldn't the Gnostics claim this, too?

2. The Indication of Abiding

- They heard the apostolic gospel message (2:24)
- The Holy Spirit convinced them of the truth of the gospel message (He *testifies* – 5:6b)
- The Holy Spirit prompted confession of Jesus as both *the Son of God* and *the Christ* (cf. 4:2-3)
- Belief and confession prove the presence and working of the Holy Spirit

2. The Indication of Abiding

- “The Spirit whose presence is the test of Christ’s living in us, manifests himself objectively in our life and conduct.” (John Stott)
- “One may know that God abides in Christians from the fact that they profess a true faith about His Son, and they can do that only if the Paraclete has taught them.” (Raymond Brown)
- See 1 John 2:27; 1 Cor. 12:1-3

So What?

- According to the Apostle John, the conditions for intimacy with God are (1) knowing & trusting the real Jesus, (2) loving as God loves, and (3) keeping His commandments
- Any different way to have intimacy with God must be false
- “make sure no one deceives you”! (3:7)

So What?

- We must know who Jesus really is
 - As He is presented by the apostles (1:1-3)
 - Anything that differs is false
- We must actively trust in Jesus as the Christ
 - Believe He is who He says He is, and that He will do what He says He will do

So What?

- We must do what He has told us to do
 - Those who will humble themselves and obey Him in faith and love will know Him more (John 14:23; 15:1-11)
 - Our obedience is evidence that we have come to know Him (1 John 2:3-4)