

**WEEK 23: "ABIDING IN THE FAMILY OF HOPE"
GOD'S LOVE EXPRESSED
1 JOHN 3:1-3**

- I. Review
 - A. "abide in him"
 - B. Living with confidence– standing against the world
 - C. Living in so as **not shrink from him in shame at his coming**
 - D. Living in readiness for His return.
 - E. Ten Virgins: 5 prepared– continually abided– they made sure there was oil for their lamps
 - 1. Other 5 just sat around and did not prepare
 - 2. Caught off guard when the bridegroom came
 - F. Abiding in Him is not a passive element of a believers life
 - 1. We must pursue this "abiding life".
 - G. **Abiding in Him is living like Him**
 - 1. Living in obedience.
 - 2. Living life in subjection
 - 3. Putting away sin and continually putting on Christ
 - H. Jesus stated it another way, **Mt 24:13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.**
 - 1. Abiding or enduring is not just waiting things out
 - 2. It is being about the living hope that is in you→ living it out in daily life.
 - I. It is a driving force of a believer's life
 - 1. **so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.**
 - J. **29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.**
 - 1. None are righteous, not even one
 - 2. But those that are abiding in Him have a "hunger and thirst for righteousness" throughout their lives.
 - 3. Continually repent of sin that remains, they are humbled before Him
 - 4. They desire to have a pure heart as they desire to be more and more like Him
 - K. Righteousness does not save you, but righteousness is an abiding characteristic of those that are saved
- II. **3:1 ¶ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.**
 - A. **See** – is a command to stare at and consider what is being said next
 - 1. Some translate "behold"

B. what kind of love the Father has given to us

1. What kind, “how great of” → potapos pot-ap-os’ → what sort or quality
2. what kind? --Agape– Love not conditional–not deserved, all
3. Natural love responds and originates in the flesh
4. What the other person is like and what the other person does for you
5. What will satisfy me
6. Agape Love that is actually impossible for us to understand→ He loves us without any motivation from us or from any other influence
7. God’s love is completely unselfish love
8. God’s love originates within Himself → GOD IS LOVE→ HIS NATURE IS LOVE

9. given to us – again not earned but given “BESTOWED” → sacrificial
 - a. “US” are those whom He called to believe on Christ
 - b. His love demonstrated “He laid down His life for us”
 - c. God did not count the cost before sending Jesus into the world
 - d. He sent His Son because that was His plan of salvation

 - e. He loved us with a GREAT LOVE →[Ephesians 2:4 ¶](#) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,

 - f. Love that none are worthy of
 - g. Love that destined the benefactors to receive the sacrifice of Jesus Christ
 - h. Love demonstrated by death of Christ
 - i. Love that provided the blood for the sacrifice for your sin

10. We can not begin to understand such love– John is saying “stop and take it in so that you yourself can live worthy of it”

C. Because of God’s love for us we live in Hope of eternal life to come

1. His love is not predicated on us loving Him back but His love shed on us will have a cause and effect.
2. We love Him BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US!

D. We do NOT abide in Him to be loved by Him→ BUT THOSE LOVED BY HIM WILL ABIDE IN HIM!

E. See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

1. called children of God → that is our name! That is what He called us!
2. All men are born children of wrath → children of the evil one

3. [1 John 2:14](#) I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

4. [John 8:47](#) Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

5. We are children of God “because” God loved us even before the foundation of the world.
6. We are regenerated to have a NEW BIRTH into HIS FAMILY

F. **and so we are.**→ Because of God’s love→ we are not only called children of God -WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD!

1. We are brought into His family because His great love He had bestowed on us
2. We are in His family
3. Christ family– we are sons of God!

G. For this reason you are in the world but you are no longer OF THE WORLD

1. **The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.**
2. God’s love on a man changes how the life of the man looks
3. World talks much of the “love of God” but you cannot know anything about the love of God unless you know God, AND
 - a. The only way to know God is to know Jesus Christ!
 - b. None come to Father except through ME!
4. World cannot understand that change because they do not know the God who makes that change
5. Runs counter to the theology that God will save you and NOT be LORD over you.
6. Continually transformed to be UNLIKE THE WORLD
7. World is infuriated to see the love they desire poured out on the believer

H. WORLD referred to here are those that are NOT of Him → **it did not know him**

1. Love of God puts a barrier between lost world and the believer

III. **2 Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.**

A. **Beloved, we are God’s children now**

1. **God’s children now!** Nothing we can do changes that! It is because God’s great love

B. We are being transformed into the image of Christ now

C. **and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him**

1. God’s love conforms the believer into what God desires you to be
2. Our sinful flesh removed→ to have a glorified body as that of Christ
3. This is the child of God’s destiny → **Romans 8:29 ¶ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.**
4. we will no longer pursue righteousness→ we will be RIGHTEOUS!

- IV. **3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**
- A. Not just a state of mind but An abiding HOPE → it drives out action in our lives
 - B. **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself**
 - 1. It is CAUSE AND EFFECT
 - 2. God's love on the believer causes them to pursue holiness NOW– to be conformed NOW
 - 3. our desires are changed → “we hunger and thirst of righteousness”
 - 4. Desiring righteousness drives us to desire to be PURE=> we purify ourselves
 - C. **who thus hopes in him** – this is a mark of one that has been SAVED BY HIM
 - D. Our lives continually are changed to desire to be more like Him
 - 1. **Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**
 - 2. We are not “abiding to be qualified to see God” –
 - 3. We are qualified to see God and therefore we abide in Purity and righteousness
 - E. There is an anointing, a call on the believer's life to purify themselves
 - F. not to be concerned the exact nature of what we will be like
 - 1. **what we will be has not yet appeared;**
 - 2. But we will be like Him– whatever that means
 - G. **Beloved, we are God's children now,**
 - 1. In you current state you belong to God, in His family eternally
 - 2. We are then called to abide in HIM NOW to prepare for being with Him in glory then.
 - 3. You already know where you are going– prepare to be there
 - H. And therefore, “**everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself**”
 - I. We do not want to be ashamed when He comes therefore we pursue righteousness now.
 - 1. This is the blessed hope that drives the life of a believer
 - J. The mystery of God's love is beyond our comprehension now
 - 1. We need to pray as Paul
 - 2. **Ephesians 3:18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.**

K. As Paul, *Philippians 3:13* **Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

L. As God's love is on us, we abide in Him forever desiring to be more like Him

1. desire is a confirmation that you are IN HIM
2. desire gives us Hope to press on towards the goal

3. Seeing how the Holy Spirit enables you to resist the temptations of sin, to withstand and walk through the trials in our lives, gives us even more confidence in what Christ has for us in the life to come.

4. This is our Hope—this is Abiding in Him!

V. Discussion

- A. How is the love of God demonstrated to men? Be specific!
- B. What is the chief characteristic of the love of God?
- C. What is the relationship between love and sacrifice?
- D. What has God's love done in your life?
- E. What does the love of God produce in a believer?
- F. How can you bridge the gap between you and the world?