

Sermon#002 - The Cost of Being a Child Of God (1 John 3:1-3)

INTRODUCTION

- a. The Cost of Being a Child of God is Hatred from the World
 - i. **Philippians 1:29 (NKJV)** — 29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him but also **to suffer** for His sake,
 - ii. **2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV)** — 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer **persecution**.
- b. The World Hates the children of God, and this is something that is not going to change until glory.
- c. The work of false teachers preaching false expectations of Christianity of a good life in this present age is a work of the devil to gain souls into eternal punishment.
 - i. **1 John 4:4 (NKJV)** — 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
- d. We must be strengthened in our faith through the Word of God.
 - i. **1 John 5:4–6 (NKJV)** — 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? 6 This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

PURPOSE: Explain from the Scriptures the reason Why the World Hates the Children of God and point you to the future promise of deliverance: the second coming of Christ.

SERMON

The Cost - Why Does the World Hate the Children of God?

1. **The World Hates Christians because the World Hated the Son**
 - a. 1 John 3:1 (NKJV) — 1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! **Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.**
 - b. **1 John 3:13 (NKJV)** — 13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.
 - c. **John 15:18-21** - "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake because they do not know Him who sent Me."
2. **Why does the World Hate the Son?** The World Hates the Son because the Son came to destroy the works of the devil

a. **1 John 3:8 (NKJV)** — 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil.

b. **1 John 5:19 (NKJV)** — 19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

3. How did the Son Destroy the Works of the Devil? With His life and Death

a. **Matthew 3:13–4:11 (NKJV)** — 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him. 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “**This is My beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.” 1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the **devil**. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “**If You are the Son of God**, command that these stones become bread.” 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ” 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, “**If You are the Son of God**, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ” 7 Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’ ” 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the ***kingdoms of the world and their glory***. 9 And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if **You will fall down and worship me.**” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

- i. Satan tempted the Son of God to sin so that he would be fully and eternally victorious over the world.
- ii. Jesus’ victory in the wilderness after his baptism marks not only the beginning of His ministry but the commencement of the full destruction of Satan.
- iii. Different to the first Adam, who failed in the Garden of Eden, the Last Adam, Jesus was victorious based on the Word of God. A victory that was concluded at the cross:

1. **Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV)** — 14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

4. How does this apply to the Children of God? The Christian, as a child of God, is not only born of God but has a new (legal) status that Satan hates, as this means that he (Satan) no longer has authority or claim over the Son of God.

- a. **John 1:10–13 (NKJV)** — 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave **the right** to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who **were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, **but of God**.

5. **How does God promise to deliver us from this enmity with the World?**

- a. Not with temporal promises of deliverance
- b. Not with present success over our enemies
- c. Not by guaranteeing us happiness and prosperity
- d. BUT with a future promise of deliverance in Christ

The promise: Transformation through revelation

1 John 3:2–3 — 2 Beloved, **now** we are children of God; and it has **not yet** been revealed what we **shall** be, but we know that **when** He is revealed, we **shall** be like Him, for we **shall** see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

1. **We will see Him as He is:** The consummation of Faith, our eyes will gaze upon the author and perfecter of our faith. Our beholding of Christ is the future consummation of our faith and the catalyst of our glorious transformation:
2. **Transformation:** The redemption of our bodies, this is the future consummation of Adoption. The children of God who have been begotten of the Father, given the right/authority to become the children of God, are now fully inserted into the family of God, not only positionally but experientially. Enmity with the World comes to an end because the World under the domain of Satan comes to and in judgment. The new Heavens and Earth propel a New World where righteousness dwells and the Father reigns through the Son in the midst of His people.
 - a. **Romans 8:18–23 (NKJV)** — 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the **glorious liberty of the children of God**. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves, groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the **adoption**, the **redemption of our body**.

The call: 1 3 And everyone who has **this hope in Him** purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Hope in Him — not in our future glory or in future deliverance — but in His imminent return and triumph over death. Our eyes should be steadfastly fixed on our Lord. The apostle has previously urged us to recognise and appreciate the love the Father has generously given us (Behold! What manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us). If we truly grasp the depth of God's love as portrayed in the Gospel, we will eagerly await the return of the lover of our

souls. At His Second Coming, we will witness the magnificent transformation of our bodies and celebrate our ultimate adoption into the family of God.

Becoming a Child of God comes with a cost: the world's hatred. This animosity, as the Scriptures reveal, is the result of the world's rejection of The Son of God: Jesus, who came to destroy the devil's deeds. Yet, in this spiritual battle, We aren't promised immediate relief or worldly prosperity. Instead, We are called to be anchored in a deeper hope: the promise of Christ's triumphant return and the transformative glory it brings. While the world may remain hostile, we are called to steadfast faith, drawing strength from our God's unwavering love and the anticipation of a future where we will be fully and gloriously adopted into God's family. The journey may be difficult and with many trials, but the destination is a divine transformation, our final adoption into God's family: Behold! What manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called children of God!

APPLICATION

a. God's Sovereignty in Persecution:

- i. **Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)** — 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
- ii. God holds the reins of every trial faced by Christians, not as a mere observer who can alter events, but as the Sovereign who has decreed and masterfully orchestrates every challenge His children endure. This reveals that He is not distant or indifferent to our suffering; rather, He has a profound and intentional purpose behind it. Recognising His divine nature, even in the harshest moments, we must trust with unwavering faith that God's design is to elevate us from a place of lesser glory to one of greater magnificence. In essence, every tribulation is for our ultimate benefit.

b. God has a purpose in our suffering

- i. **Despite the challenges faced by Christians, persecution often acts as a catalyst for spreading the message of Christ.**
 1. **Acts 8:1 (NKJV)** — 1 Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time, a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.
- ii. **The Danger of Comfort:**
 1. While persecution can challenge the church, prosperity and comfort can be even more detrimental. The church often becomes complacent in times of ease, leading to a lack of missionary zeal and a decrease in giving.

c. Compassion for our persecutors:

- i. Saul, who once persecuted the church, later became one of its greatest advocates. This transformation serves as a reminder that even the fiercest critics can become allies in the cause of Christ.

d. Hope in Christ:

- i. **Romans 5:2–5 (NKJV)** — 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.