

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 12- Sons of God **1John 2:29-3:3**

99. Being in the Family- Part 4

WAOY Thursday 10/11/07

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "Being in God's Family". So, let's turn in our Bibles and read **1John 2:29- 3:3** again together:

29 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

3:1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Now on the last broadcast- we were going over just what John was saying here in these four verses and we began to look at just what it means to be in God's Family. And on today's broadcast, I want us to look carefully at verse 2 of Chapter 3:

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

John says that "**now**"- right now- we are God's children. When? At the very moment that we are saved and washed in the Blood and have been regenerated by the Power of God- we have been forever taken

out of the kingdom of satan and have been translated into the kingdom of God. Look at **Colossians 1:10-13**:

10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

So, our translation; our salvation; our adoption; our regeneration; our new birth happens instantly; down here on earth; *before* we go to heaven. We are saved down here on earth- now- and that Salvation is certain and sure- and because we are saved now- we will experience the *fullness* of that Salvation in reality forever when we stand with Christ in Glory.

But now notice what John says next:

... it has not appeared as yet what we will be. ...

Now we are saved by Grace through Faith in Christ alone and that Salvation is certain, and it is sure- because it is of God. Our souls have been *forever* transformed by the Power of God and we are safe in the Arms of Jesus. But our redeemed soul is still entombed in this body of sinful flesh that has not been saved. And this fleshly body is still living in a pagan and unconverted world that is dominated by a system that opposes God. And in this world- the fallen arch angel Lucifer- satan; the devil- walks to and fro and up and down in it like a roaring lion- seeking whom he may devour.

So, we are bombarded with temptation; and we have various degrees of success in overcoming that temptation and remaining faithful to love and serve and obey God. Our love for God fluctuates and our devotion to Christ goes up and down. We are led by God's Spirit one moment and in the next instant – we are driven by our own lusts. We love and

then we hate. We forgive and then we hold a grudge. We try and fail and try and succeed and then we try and fail again.

There are days when the Spirit of God is flowing in us and through us like river and there are other days when we feel dry and destitute and empty. But God didn't change because God *cannot* change. But *we* changed. We fluctuate because we are what we eat. We believe what we read and what we hear and what we listen to. Our soul is fed by what goes into our eyes and ears and nose and fingers and we are motivated by the fallen emotions of wrath and fear and jealousy and envy and hatred and lust.

Now for many years I have wrestled with this issue. And I have talked with hundreds of pastors and thousands of believers from all over the world. I have researched what men of God wrote hundreds of years ago about this very issue and I have come to the conclusion that we have two choices in this life. We can either be weak in our Faith and do those things which promote our flesh to the expense of our soul- or we can be strong in our faith and engage in those things which promote our soul to the expense of our flesh.

Now I do not believe that Salvation itself is a choice in the sense that most people understand "choice." Now I *used* to believe that- as I'm sure many of you do- but I have become convinced by Scripture that God is the One who chooses us- we don't choose Him. God is so holy, and man is so sinful, and Salvation is such a glorious miracle that if *anybody* at all is going to be saved- God is the One Who has to do it. So, I do not go along with the prevailing theology of our day that teaches that sinful man chooses to be saved or makes a "decision for Christ" or any of that. I believe and I teach that the Bible teaches clearly and repeatedly that Salvation itself is wholly and solely a Sovereign work of God alone.

But I do believe that Since I am saved- since I have been born from above and been regenerated; since I have been adopted into the Family of God- that this proves that I have already received from God a brand new nature. And this new nature is what allowed me and empowered me to repent and trust in Christ to begin with. And this nature is not like the old nature that I was born with. The old nature came from Adam. And that old nature entered into me at the very second that I was conceived in my mother's womb. But the Bible says that this new nature comes from God- and it is itself divine- the Bible says.

And it is this new nature- this gift from God that I cannot earn and did not deserve that *causes* me to love and follow after God. In fact- I don't even possess the ability in and of myself to even *desire* to love God- much less have the power to actually obey Him. But even the *desire* to love and serve God is a gift from God to me. And this is what Paul meant when he said in **Philippians 2:13**:

for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

Now notice that Paul didn't say that this "will" and this "power" is inherent in the human being- not even in the saved person- but that it is God- all by Himself- Who works *in* us to give us both the "desire" or the "will" to serve God and it is God Who works- all by Himself- *in* us to give us the "power" or the "ability" to serve God.

And this means that no human being has either the "will" or the "power" to serve God on his own- but that the "will" or the "desire" to serve God; and the "power" or the "ability" to serve God- that both of these are gifts from God to the redeemed soul.

Now this is critical. Because if you believe that you already have that "will" all by yourself and if you believe that you already possess that "power" in and of yourself to obey and serve God- then you do not need God and you do not need Christ and you do not need the Cross and you do not need the Blood and you do not need Repentance and you do not need Salvation and you do not need Grace.

If it is true- as so many of the modern day snake oil salesman teach- that we have- lying deep down within us- some "giant" that needs to be "awakened". If it is true that we all have a "warrior" inside of us that is being held down by low expectations and fear- and that all we need to do to be successful is to *awaken* that "giant" and *stir* that "warrior" by promoting and edifying and building up ourselves- if that is true- then Jesus died in vain.

The modern pied pipers teach that what is "wrong" with Man is what happens *outside* of him and what is "right" about Man lies *inside* of him - and if we can just learn to "tap" into that "inner power" and if we can just learn how to "free" that "inner energy" and if we can just learn the "techniques" and the "secrets" of how to "release" that "inner potential"- that is already in us- then we can be free indeed. We can be successful;

we can be rich; we can be prosperous and, in some cases, – we can even be gods.

Let me say to you today that what I just described to you is the single most popular teaching that exists today in America. Books that teach what I just said fly off the bookcases at record speed. Preachers who teach this have tens of thousands in their Churches. This theology that teaches that what is “wrong” with Man lies *outside* of him and what is “right” about Man lies *inside* of him is sweeping the modern Church.

But let me also say to you that what I just described to you is a lie. It is evil. It is false. It is heresy and it is blasphemy, and it comes from the very heart and mind and mouth of Lucifer himself. And what I just described to you and what is the most popular theology of the modern Church is not new- it is ancient- it began in the Garden and was first spoken by a serpent, and it even has a name. It is called “Humanism”- and it is fast replacing Biblical Christianity as the religion of the United States.

Humanism was first put forth by satan in the Garden when he challenged what God had said and deceived Eve with the lie that the only reason God forbids Man to do anything is because God wanted to stop or hinder Man from reaching his full “potential” and that if only they would listen to him- their eyes would be opened and they would become gods.

Now even though humanism was first proposed by satan some 6,000 years ago- it was formalized and brilliantly articulated by a British monk in the fourth century name Pelagius. Pelagius rejected what the Bible taught about Original Sin, Grace, and Salvation and was the first man to preach a sermon about us looking *inward* rather than *outward* for help, guidance, power, and success.

But the Bible teaches just the opposite of what satan, and Pelagius taught. The Bible teaches that Man is corrupt—that *all* men are corrupt and sinful and lost and evil internally in their hearts. In fact, the Bible teaches that no man is righteous in and of himself and that in fact- no man is good.

The modern heretics agree with satan and Pelagius and teach that what is “right” about Man is what lies *inside* him- his inner “giant” or his inner “warrior”. But the Bible teaches that what is “wrong” with Man is what is *inside* him- his heart; his soul; his nature; his desires; and his internal workings are all sinful and evil.

The modern false teachers agree with satan and Pelagius and say that what is “wrong” with Man is what is *outside* him- the unfairness of life and poverty and a low paying job. But the Bible says that what happened *outside* of man- in heaven and in the Bible and on the Cross- is the only thing that can rescue lost Man from damnation.

To look inward for power and help is to believe that you already possess whatever you need to succeed. But to look outward and upward is to admit that you need God. Becoming moral by applying will power to your life and by utilizing certain techniques learned from the unsaved world is to bow the knee to the pride of Man and reject that Man is utterly lost and believing this makes you to be the enemy of the Cross of Jesus Christ.

But to agree with God that we are born sinful and that we are helplessly and hopelessly lost, and we need the Grace of a living Savior will force you to bow your knees to God as you smite your breast and cry out *”Have mercy on me a sinner!”*

Pelagius didn’t need Grace because he believed that Man already had what it took to become holy. But Scripture is clear that everything that we need to be holy- even the “desire” and the “ability” to serve God is a gift from God.

The end of humanism is that Man is glorified- even deified. The end of Scripture is that God is glorified. So please find out what you are being taught. Teachings that tickle your ears and thrill your heart and build you up may sound great- but unless that teaching gives all glory to God- at the expense of flesh- it is not from Heaven.

Jesus said, **“That which is of the flesh is flesh and that which is of the Spirit is spirit”** The Doctrine that magnifies Man is not from God and the Doctrine that magnifies God is foolishness to Man.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from The New American Standard Bible © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse Journey through the Epistle of 1John. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.