



FATHER'S DAY 2023

1 Jn. 3:1-3

"GRACE SO AMAZING FROM GOD THE FATHER"

1 Jn. 3:1 **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:** therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 **Beloved, now are we the sons of God,** and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

3 And **every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**

Today is *Father's Day*, and our focus will be upon the greatest Father/child relationship that a person can have, and that is having a relationship with our heavenly Father. This intimate title was used by the Lord Jesus in referring to His personal relationship with the Creator.

In the synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, this identity of Jesus addressing God as Father is given well over 100 times. In the Book of John, it is used 60 plus times. We are taught in the Lord's Prayer to use this identity of father in "Our Father..." But why?

This morning we will consider how this spiritual relationship develops.

I. OUR HIGH CALLING AS CHILDREN

1 Jn. 3:1 **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:** therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 **Beloved, now are we the sons of God,** and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

A. It's Commencement in the Past, 3:1

1.The Love that Sought Us, 3:1a-b

a.An Exclamation, 3:1a “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us...”

❖ A person's relationship with God is initiated by Him and is a matter to “BEHOLD.”

❖ The “manner” is one of love that is a spiritual relationship.

Jn. 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him **must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.**

❖ When God created Adam, He “breathed” upon him, and Adam became a “living soul.”

Gen. 2:7 And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**

❖ When Jesus talked with Nicodemus, He described the necessity of being “born again.” Such a birth is a “spiritual” birth, not a natural birth.

Jn. 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

6 That which is born of the **flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

❖ In order for a person to have a spiritual birth, there must be a spiritual process.

Jn. 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

❖ A spiritual birth requires a spiritual seed – the Word of God:

1 Pet. 1:23 **Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God,** which liveth and abideth for ever.

❖ The hearing of the Word of God produces faith:

Rom. 10:17 So then **faith cometh by hearing**, and **hearing by the word of God**.

❖ Salvation is by grace, through faith:

Eph. 2:8 For **by grace are ye saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: *it is* **the gift of God**:
9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

b. An Explanation, 3:1b “...that we should be called the sons of God...”

❖ The most outstanding event in a person's life is to be a child of God!

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that **we are the children of God:**

17 And if children, then heirs; **heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ**; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

2. The Love that Separates Us, 3:1c

“...therefore the world knoweth us not,
because it knew him not.”

❖ Believers should not expect unsaved people to understand or know the motivation for their lifestyle (2 Cor. 5:17).

2 Cor. 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

1 Jn. 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

1 Cor. 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; **comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

14 But **the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God**: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because **they are spiritually discerned.**

B. It's Continuation in the Present, 3:2a "Beloved, **now** are we the sons of God..."

- ❖ After a person is saved, a spiritual relationship develops with God as Father.
- ❖ Jesus used a term of endearment in reference to His Father, and born-again believers can do the same:

Mark 14:36 **And he said, Abba, Father**, all things *are* possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Rom. 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but **ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.**

Gal. 4:6 And **because ye are sons**, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, **crying, Abba, Father.**

C. It's Consummation is Promised

1. A Hidden Mystery, 3:2b"... and it doth not yet appear what we shall be..."

❖ Believers are to be like Abraham and walk by faith:

Rom. 4:20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was **strong in faith**, giving glory to God;

21 And **being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.**

2. A Holy Moment, 3:2c "...but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him..."

1 Cor. 13:12 **For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face:** now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known (See 1 Cor.15:51-57).

3. A Happy Meeting, 3:2d” ... but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

Jn. 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you.**

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that **where I am, there ye may be also.**

II. OUR HOLY CONDUCT AS CHRISTIANS

1 Jn. 3:3 And **every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**

A. Spiritual Conduct is Inclusive – “And every man...”

❖ All believers have opportunity to be faithful to God's will, to know Him as a Father.

1 Cor. 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man **be found faithful.**

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and **what doth the LORD require of thee**, but **to do justly**, and **to love mercy**, and **to walk humbly with thy God?**

B. Spiritual Conduct is Identifying – “...that hath this hope **in him**...”

Jer. 17:7 Blessed *is* the man that trusteth in the LORD, and **whose hope the LORD is**.

Rom. 15:13 **Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope**, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Col. 1:27 To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

Titus 2:13 **Looking for that blessed hope**, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, **we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

1 Pet. 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and **Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, which **according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

C. Spiritual Conduct is Incessant – “...**purifieth himself**, even as **he is pure**.”

❖ A believer's standard of conduct is the Lord Jesus Christ.

❖ A believer is responsible for personal discipline to be like Christ, and not influenced by others.

1 Tim. 5:22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, **neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.**

Summary

- ❖ Mankind has an opportunity to have a special relationship with the Creator, to know Him as a child with a Father.
- ❖ Such a relationship is a spiritual endeavor enhanced by implementing a spiritual influence known as the Word of God.
- ❖ As a believer grows in grace, appreciation should grow as a child of God for such a privilege.
- ❖ This Father's Day, do you truly know the Lord as your heavenly Father? If not, you can. If so, rejoice in knowing Him as your spiritual Father.

Conclusion

1 Jn. 5:9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

11 And this is the record, that **God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.**

12 **He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**

13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.