

1 John 3:1-3

- A. John here proclaims the love of God in our adoption and the effects of that adoption.
- B. John sets forth the manner of God's love.
 - 1. God did not simply offer His love to us; He rather *bestowed it upon* us!
 - 2. bestow upon: To confer as a gift, present, give (a person).
 - 3. This bestowed love constitutes us the sons of God.
 - 4. If God loves you, you will be called a son of God.
- C. We are the sons of God by adoption. **EPH 1:5.**
 - 1. adoption: The action of voluntarily taking into any relation; *esp.* of taking into sonship.
 - 2. Our relationship to God as His sons was *predestinated*.
 - 3. This relationship is brought about by Jesus Christ.
 - 4. This relationship is according to the *good pleasure of God's will*.
 - a. Hence, it is a voluntary act of God: it is of God's free will!
 - b. **JOH 1:12-13** ties our sonship to the will of God.
 - c. The receiving of Christ is the effect of having been given the power to become the sons of God.
 - 5. Therefore, God's love for us is linked to His predestination.
- D. The redemptive work of Jesus Christ was to the end that we might receive the adoption of sons. **GAL 4:4-5.**
 - 1. The redemptive work of Christ is the manifestation of God's love toward us. **1JO 4:9.**
 - 2. This is the *manner of love* that makes us God's sons.
- E. An effect of being the sons of God is that the world knows us not.
 - 1. Being sons of God, we have the nature of Christ.
 - 2. Therefore, since the world did not know Christ, they do not know us. **JOH 1:10; 17:14.**
- F. We are NOW the sons of God though it does not yet appear what we shall be.
- G. The full benefits of our sonship are reserved unto that time when Christ shall *appear*.
 - 1. appear: To come forth into view, as from a place or state of concealment, or from a distance; to become visible.
 - 2. This will not be a secret rapture, but an appearing which will be *visible* by definition. **MAT 24:26-27, 30-31.**
 - 3. This is the *second appearing* of the Lord Jesus Christ. **HEB 9:28.**
 - 4. Christ appeared the first time to put away our sin that God laid upon Him. **ISA 53:6; HEB 9:26; 1JO 3:5.**
 - a. Having put our sin away, He will appear the second time without it. **HEB 9:28.**
 - b. Those who with hope look for His appearing have this promise.
- H. When Christ shall appear, we shall appear with Him in *glory*. **COL 3:4.**
 - 1. This is the hope of *glory* that we have because the *love of God has been bestowed upon us*. **ROM 5:2, 5; 2TH 2:16-17.**
 - 2. The blessed hope is His *glorious* appearing. **TIT 2:13.**
- I. When Christ shall appear, *we shall be like Him*.
 - 1. This is something that we KNOW.
 - 2. At the appearing of Christ, our vile bodies shall be changed and fashioned like unto His *glorious* body. **PHIL 3:21.**
 - a. Our bodies will be raised in incorruption, glory, and power. **1CO 15:42-43.**
 - b. They will be spiritual bodies. **1CO 15:44.**
 - c. Like the glorified body of Christ, they will *shine as the sun*. **REV 1:16; MAT 13:43.**
 - d. Like Christ's glorified body, our bodies will be given perpetual youth.

PSA 110:3; 103:4-5.

e. Christ's resurrected body was not subject to the confinements of our natural bodies.
LUK 24:31; JOH 20:19; ACT 1:9-10.

f. They shall be bodies without sin.

3. We shall then be fully conformed to the image of God's Son which is the end to which we were predestinated. **ROM 8:29.**

4. This is the moment of our glorification which completes the chain of events set in motion by God's predestination. **ROM 8:30.**

5. The glorification of our bodies at Christ's appearing is the *manifestation* of the sons of God. **ROM 8:19-23.**

a. This is the manifestation of what we are now.

b. It is the ultimate effect of being sons of God.

J. At the appearing of Christ, we shall be satisfied. **PSA 17:15.**

K. There is a connection between being like Christ and *seeing Him as He is*.

1. David said he would *behold* His face in righteousness; that is, in His likeness. **PSA 17:15.**

2. Job connected the resurrection of his body with *seeing* God. **JOB 19:25-27.**

3. The glorified saints who occupy the new earth shall *see* God's face. **REV 22:3-4.**

4. We must be like Him to thus see Him. **MAT 5:8.**

L. Every man that has *this hope* in him *purifies himself*.

1. This is the hope of our calling as God's sons. **EPH 1:18.**

2. The hope is IN us as a result of the new birth. **1PE 1:3.**

3. Those who truly yearn to be like Christ at His appearing will strive to be like Him now.
PHIL 3:8-14.

4. He has no right to claim this hope who does not strive to purify Himself after the pattern of Christ.