

Who am I in Christ #9: A child of God 1 John 3:1-3

Objectives: We want to begin to see that we are not just followers of a certain religion, but rather, are beloved children of God. We want to identify our false views about ourselves. We want to begin to live in freedom of our true identity.

Launch

When you think about movies or TV shows you have watched, who is an example to you of an ideal father figure? What characteristics stand out to you as a good father?

How have you seen your relationship (or lack of relationship) with your earthly father affect your understanding of your heavenly father?

We are in the middle of a series on “Who am I in Christ” where we are trying to understand what is true of a person who is a follower of Jesus. Last week we looked at a passage where Jesus taught his disciples that they were loved by him and friends with him. 60 years later one of those disciples wrote a letter to teach others about this love.

Pray

Explore

Read 1 John 3:1-3

Use these 2 versions as well as any others people may have.

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” (NIV)

“See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don’t recognize that we are God’s children because they don’t know him.” (NLT)

- **What stands out to you as you read this short statement from John?**
- **John seems blown away that God considers him a child of God. Why?**

At this point in his life John was probably over 90. His best friends were all killed for following Jesus. He was tortured and exiled for his faith. At the end of his life he seems intent on helping his followers understand that they

are beloved children of God. **Why do you think he is so intent on this?**

- **How is being a beloved child different from being an employee or associate?** (An employee has to work hard to earn what they get. Mess up and you will get fired. Your worth is tied to your ability to work and produce. A child is loved unconditionally.)
- **How is being a beloved child different from being an unwanted child?** (An unwanted child is abandoned and alone. A beloved child is cared for and loved.)
- **Is it easy or difficult for you to believe that you are a beloved child of God? Why or why not?** (do in small groups if you have a lot of people).
- **Which lie (you are only an employee or you are unwanted) are you most tempted to believe? How does this affect your spiritual life?**
- **How do you think your life would be different if you believed, really believed, that you were a beloved child of God?** (there are many answers for this! A few are- spend time with the father, I would desire to imitate the father, I would feel secure in my relationship with the father, I would desire to love others in the same way I have been loved, etc...)

Apply

Our broken world, our own flesh and the devil are all trying to keep us from believing we are beloved children of God.

- **What can we do to help one another grasp this crucial truth?**

One thing that has helped Christians throughout history grasp this truth is by “renewing our minds” with the truth of scripture. Each day this week, read one of these passages that talk about God’s

incredible love for us. Have someone post the scripture each day in the group me.

- **Romans 8:31-39**
- **Ephesians 1:3-14**
- **1 John 4:7-21**
- **John 15:12-17**
- **Galatians 2:20**
- **Ephesians 3:14-21**
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