

Living In Incredible Love

Introduction:

- A. **[Love at Christmas time – Parents & God]**
- B. As Christians are we griped by the amazing love of God?
- C. 1 John 3:1-3
- D. *“The Christian life is transformed by God’s incredible love.”*
- E. There are some wonderful promises about the love of God on the believer:
 - a. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.”* – Eph. 1:3-6
 - b. *“Christ’s love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God.”* – Eph. 3:19 NCV
 - c. *“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* – Rom. 3:38-39 NIV
- F. But have we stopped to think about the radical impact that that love has and is having on us?
- G. 3 Truths as a result of God’s love in the Christian life:
 - I. Because of God’s love we now have a new relationship.
 - a. We are now the children of God. (1a)
 - i. We have been given a new name
 - 1. “called” – also means “to name”
 - 2. God has now named us as part of His family.
 - 3. **[Enemy to Family]**
 - 4. He is not just Creator, but now our Father!
 - ii. It is a reality that we live in.
 - 1. *“and so we are”* – ESV
 - 2. John wanted us to get this point (2a¹)
 - 3. Just as we were born into our earthly families, we have been reborn into the family of God.
 - iii. What great love God has shown us to make us part of His family!
 - 1. *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together”* – Rom. 8:14-17
 - 2. We have become joint-heirs with Jesus!
 - 3. We were given their right at the moment of our faith.
 - 4. *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”* – Jn. 1:12-13
- 4. *“Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* – Jn. 3:3

3. *“For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.”* – 1 Pet. 4:3-4
- iii. The world cannot come to an appreciation of God and His way of living...
 1. But we can, because we have changed!
 2. *“For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”* – Col. 3:3-4

“So we have a new relationship, the next truth...”

- II. Because of God’s love we will have a new body.
- a. We will have a form that has not yet been revealed. (2a)
 - i. We don’t fully know what our future form will be, because we haven’t experienced it yet.
 1. We can’t fully fathom all we have coming to us!
 2. *“But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”* – 1 Cor. 2:9
 - ii. We do have some clues in the New Testament.
 1. We have a spiritual and eternal life ahead...
 2. **Jn. 3:16**
 3. **[More than heaven!]**
 - iii. But what will our bodies be like?
 - b. We will be given a body like Jesus. (2b)
 - i. At His coming, we are going to gain a perspective of who we are in Christ that we never had before.
 1. “see” – to preserve, to recognize, or to appreciate
 2. We have not come to appreciate yet what we will become
 3. But we will at His revealing!
 4. **[The Rapture]**
 - ii. We will be resurrected up into glorification.
 1. We will be given bodies like Christ.
 2. **1 Cor. 15:42-53**

3. We will experience a wonderful transformation!
4. *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”* – Phil. 3:20-21

5. **[Butterfly]**

- iii. Thus, through the love of God we will be given new bodies.
 1. This has been God’s plan for our salvation...
 2. *“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.”* – Rom. 8:29

“So we will be given new bodies, the final truth...”

- III. Because of God’s love we should have a new motivation.
- a. We should live motivated by our hope. (3a)
 - i. What is this hope?
 1. It is the hope that we will be resurrected and gain new bodies.
 2. **[Not a wish or dream]**
 3. “hope” – a confident expectation
 4. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”* – 1 Pet. 1:3-5
 - ii. We should be living with an expectation of what we have in Christ!
 1. It’s easy to get and live distracted!
 2. But we must fix our eyes on Jesus!

3. *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* – Heb. 12:1-2
 - iii. What does this hope living look like?
 - b. We should let our hope motivate us to live pure. (3)
 - i. We should be motivated to live a godly.
 1. “pure” – to make clean
 2. We are to strive to live morally & ethically free from the corruption of sin.
 3. This is a process that doesn’t stop this side of heaven.
 4. *“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”* – 2 Cor. 7:1
 - ii. Jesus is the example for us to live by.
 1. *“All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus’ life as a model for our own.”* – Message
 2. Just as Jesus lived pure, so should we...
 3. We should have a desire growing in us to become more and more like Him!
 4. *“My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead. Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God’s heavenly call in Christ Jesus.”* – Phil. 3:10-14 HCSB
 - iii. Why?

1. Because all that we have & will have is given to us by God’s love!
2. Remember we are living in hope!
3. Because God is our Father we shouldn’t deliberately disobey or test His patience
 - a. Remember we have been changed...
 - b. Before, we were creatures sinning against the Creator
 - c. Now, we are children sinning against our Father!
4. The closer we draw to the father the more we should long to live pure!
5. *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”* – James 4:8
6. **[Godly teen – “I’m not afraid my father will hurt me, but I am afraid I might hurt him.”]**

Conclusion

- A. Have you been living in the hope of His great love?
- B. Have you been changed by God’s love?