

# *God's Fellowship (Series)*

## (1 John Chapter 3)

### **Lesson #3 “Fellowshipping God as Children”**

**Scripture:** 1 John 1:7 “but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

#### **Introduction:**

On September 18 1993 Our first son Colton was born. We drove over to Claremore Regional Hospital and there Charity delivered this little guy. 8# 7oz, 21” tall. We were so excited and I remember after counting to see if he had the correct number of fingers and toes, it just hit me that I had a son and I whispered that to myself and it sounded so weird. I couldn't imagine greater joy than to have a scraping young boy as my first child.

Charity jumped right in there spoiling him and taking to task all the things a mother does.... Diapers, feeding and telling me I was holding him wrong. She had great joy in her eyes and heart and it glowed in her personality.

The birth of a child marks:

- Their start in life.
- Biological growth
- Their belonging and heritage
- Their direction

The birth that really mattered was in 2005. Colton was spiritually born of the water and the Spirit through the watery grave of baptism after some study and a decision by him. Charity and I have found a greater joy than a physical birth. Having the honor of teaching and baptizing my son means more to me than most things I can imagine.

This second birth is what places us in covenant relationship with and John reminds us that we are God's children born of Him. Fellowship with God comes from being his children.

#### **Lesson:**

#### **I. Fellowship with God is reserved for His children**

1 John 3:1-3

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.

- A. “See” calls us to contemplate to think on and consider deeply.

1. “how great a love”

-What manner of Love in the Greek

-Suggests total amazement

-Points to a love that comes from outside this world.

-A love sent through his only begotten son

-John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

-Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

2. “that we should be called children of God.” \*“And such we are”

-Here as Christians we are identified as children of God

-John leads into this idea in the last verse of chapter 2 by bringing up the idea of being born of Him.

\*The context primarily suggests beginning, belonging, destination and purpose.

-This is not a physical birth but the “born again” of John chapter 3, a spiritual birth that happens when we obey the gospel in the watery grave of baptism and are united with Christ Romans chapter 6.

\*John 1:12-13 says

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

3. The world does not know us, because it did not know Him

\*The world didn’t understand Jesus or accept Him

\*Therefore it does not understand us.

-Shall we try to blend in with the world or be upset if we don’t fit in with them?

-We live in contrast to the world....not in harmony with!

-The contrast comes from spiritual birth that causes us to walk in the light and separate ourselves from darkness.

-2 Corinthians 6:14

“Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?”

B. “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.

1. Verse one tells us what we are but here verse two tells us what we shall be. Our future eternal state has not yet been revealed but when Jesus comes again then we will understand.

-While we live in the physical body it is not our destination for we are but just pilgrims passing through and our citizenship is in heaven....we are in the world but not of the world.

-When he comes again we will be transformed from the physical to our eternal spiritual state.

Philippians 3:21 “who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

2. Flesh and blood won't get us to heaven

-1 Corinthians 15:42-50

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

-We must move away from earthly thinking and focus on our spiritual direction.

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

-Hope in Jesus here is connected to purification

-1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who

according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

-Living in the spirit as opposed to death in the flesh

-Purification from sin comes through setting your hope in the right place.

-We can't hope in ourselves or each other...but only in Christ!

-Paul would put it this way:

1 Corinthians 15:19 “If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.”

## **II. Fellowship with God comes through a continuation of righteousness**

1 John 3:4-10

4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.

- A. Continued sin here is equated to total rejection of God's authority in ones life
- B. The present tense Greek verb here means to continue in sin.
- C. Sin does matter, After all Jesus came to eradicate it  
-He certainly didn't partake of it.
- D. If you are in Christ you stop the practice or career of sinning

7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning.

- A. There may have been a great debate about who is and who isn't godly, but the fruits always identify the tree. An apple tree doesn't bear peaches etc.
- B. To put it quite plainly Verse 8b says “The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.”
- C. One must heed the warning to be not deceived

9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

- A. Christians born of God do not continue in sin....why?  
-Because God's seed abides in him and he doesn't continue in sin  
\*His seed is his word.  
-1 Peter 1:23 says “for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.”

- B. Its not that they cannot sin because in chapter on John says that the man who says he has no sin is a liar and the truth is not in him.
- C. Here many folks have bought into the idea that once your saved your always saved.

-This has never fit any biblical context at all....it stands in contradiction to it.

-See Gal. 5:4 where Paul says you have fallen from grace

-See Rev 2:10 Be faithful unto death

-See Rev 2:5 Threat to Ephesians church of having lamp stand removed.

-See Matt 21:43 Jesus threatens to take the kingdom away

\*Once saved always saved is a theological fairy tale which the scripture doesn't support at all.

10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

- A. God tells us that the children match the parents

-And it is obvious

-Plain

-Straight forward

### **III. Fellowship with God comes through Loving one another.**

1 John 3:11-24

11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;

- A. The message of Salvation is rooted in love

- B. 1 Corinthians 13 Paul uses a whole chapter to approach this topic

Love can be misdirected and is not be like:

12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

- A. The only person Cain loved was himself

- B. God placed enmity between good and evil Gen. 3:15

### The mark of true love

16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

- A. Love was made known to us through Christ...we wouldn't have known or understood it without him.  
-Selfless love

18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

- A. Love shouldn't be an outward show but an inward flow.  
-Genuine and from the heart  
-Matt 12:34 says out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks
- B. Let our love be coupled with action and not just be some exercise of words

### True love will assure our hearts before God

19 We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him

- A. By true love  
-That we are in truth  
-And have our hearts assured before God

### Satan tries to use our hearts against us.

20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

- A. If action doesn't accompany our words then true love is missing and our consciences are violated.
- B. Here is the idea that Satan can and does use our thoughts and feeling against us to sway us away from God.

### If our consciences are clear and we are obedient

21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

- A. Confidence before God
- B. Our needs from God are met

23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. 24 The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him.

- A. God commands that we believe and turn to His Christ and Love each other
- B. The one who is obedient remains in Him and He in him.

**Conclusion:**

How do we know if Jesus is in us? If we are born of God and His spirit dwells in us.

24b “We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”

**So, Fellowship with God is for those:**

- Born of Him....Children of God**
- Who continue in righteousness**
- And for those who Live loving one another.**