# 1 John Lesson 16

1 John 2:28-3:3

“Behold, What Manner of Love!”

Introduction: Jesus is righteousness, if we manifest righteousness, then we are also like Christ. John uses these criteria to help us know that we are born of Him. John’s letter is repeatedly giving us assurance in this. The question we have to ask ourselves is, “Is there any Christ-likeness manifested in my life?” Your ability to answer that question is the most important thing you will ever deal with. One of the ways we know we are in him, again, is that His characteristics will start showing up in our daily lives.

One thing is very clear in the verses we read this morning, John is writing here about the excitement of being a “son” of God.

The word “Behold” means “pay attention” “look at this” “this deserves our attention” “this truth is special, significant. We must not pass over it like some other fact in a textbook, it requires that we meditate on it, repeatedly. ”

I. Take time to let this sink deeply into your soul.

 A. This is something to gaze upon.

 1. Don’t just look at it then move on without meditating on it.

 a. Don’t hear of God’s love and not dwell on it.

 b. Don’t listen to a message of God’s love and then move on to something else.

 c. Don’t just sing about it and say amen then go on.

 2. This is not something to take a glance at and move on without further consideration.

 a. Don’t hear it and then let your mind drift away

 b. It should elicit a sense of wonder and gratitude.

 B. This manner of love is foreign to human relations.

 1. There are many kinds (manners) of love.

 a. You might say “I love Starbucks”.

 b. “I Love my country”.

 c. “I love that show”.

 d. “I love you mom”.

 e. God’s love is different from any other kind of love.

 2. His love has been bestowed – it is freely given

 a. He pours on us and dumps it out.

 b. He gives it in generous proportions.

 3. Us – through Jesus Christ, we are called sons

 a. The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.

 b. If children, then heirs, we are joint heirs with Jesus Christ.

 4. Have you dwelt or meditated upon this fact?

 5. Think of the love that a parent has for their children.

 a. Think of how protective you are of your children.

 b. Think of the many ways children bring happiness into a parent’s life.

 c. Think of how special you are to God.

 C. This world is ignorant of Jesus.

 1. They often do not understand your devotion to Jesus, which separates you from them.

 a. They don’t understand why you tithe.

 b. They don’t understand your abstinence from the affairs and pleasures of this world.

 c. They do not understand your service and labor for Jesus

 d. They do not understand young people surrendering their life to be used and directed by the Holy Spirit.

 e. They DO NOT understand godliness, righteousness, and Christ-likeness.

2. When we experience the love of God which has no human description, but also we inherit the reproach of Jesus Christ

 a. Too many people want the marvelous love of God, but not the reproach of Jesus.

 b. The system of the world is our adversary to the truth of the gospel, but the people of the world are NOT.

 3. Are we willing to bear the reproach?

 a. Is the extent of our Christian life that we don’t get too much heat from the world?

 b. Are you willing to follow Him in ways that make you stick out from the crowd?

II. We only know what the Bible tells us about Heaven.

 A. There is a lot about life after death that we do not know.

 1. We know that to be absent from the body is present with the Lord.

 a. That we leave this life and are freed from sinful flesh.

 b. That we leave this corruptible body capable of decay.

 2. We know that all is well and there is nothing to worry about for those who are already there.

 3. We do not know more than the Bible tells us.

 a. Neither you nor I can know more than revealed in scripture

 b. No other author or philosopher can know more either.

 B. We know that He shall appear and when He does, we will be changed to be like Him.

 1. We do not know how that will happen

 a. We should not fill in things that we do not know anything about

 b. There is something very powerful about Him.

 1) We cannot change ourselves.

 2) He has the power to rescue any sinner and change him at that day.

 2. When we were saved, God began a process to make us like His Son, Jesus Christ.

 a. We are not there yet (although we ought to be closer today than yesterday).

 b. But when He shall appear, we shall be changed

 3. We should be spending time regularly looking into the Bible

 a. Not as a religious habit, but so that God can speak to us.

 b. Sincere time in fervent prayer before God begins to stamp God’s image on an individual’s life.

 c. God then begins to press His image on our life and thinking which produce Christ-likeness in our life.

 1) Changes and transforms a person

 2) Their life is not just like Jesus, but it is more and more like Jesus.

 4. While the Word of God shapes us and prayer changes us and meaningful time with God begins to mark His impression upon us

 a. When He shall appear, in one instance, we are like Him

 b. There will not be any more process of changing

 c. It is all done when Jesus comes again

 C. If God’s people could get a hold of that as truth and reality and not as an intellectual assent, it would change them.

 1. It is frustrating to try and convince people to live a pure life

 2. Most have a greater hope of coming relationships, promotions, holidays and happenings than of Jesus’ coming

 a. They are living without the hope of His coming

 b. Living with the blessed hope of Jesus’ coming will change how people view things

 c. Consciously aware of the hope that Jesus could come today will affect one’s attitude about moral living.

 3. The Hope of His coming alive in a heart causes a person to look for ways to be Godly.

 a. Not look for excuses to be and live worldly.

 b. Are we fussing about what we cannot or should not do or what is preached against?

 c. Or are we crying “Help me live a Godly life…Jesus in coming again!!”

 4. Jesus is pure, he was never in the process of purification

 a. This hope alive in a person will bring purification of Christ

 b. Not living with that hope burning inside will slow or even halt the process of purification.

Conclusion: The pages John wrote make it very clear that he was well aware of the struggle we all face in this world and in this flesh. John encourages us to meditate on the great love that God has shown to us through His Son Jesus Christ. This meditation alone is enough to uplift our spirits no matter the situation. John also encourages us by admitting that we are not yet what we will one day become. Take courage Christian that when Christ comes in the clouds He will have the power and ability to make you what you ought to be. At that moment friend, His work in you will be complete. This is a great hope that ought to help us in the struggle to become more like Christ today. Press toward the mark, so you too can be glad at that day.