



### What's coming up in middle school @NCC:

- **Vertical Edge :: Tuesday, February 4 • Core Groups.** We are breaking into our core groups this week. Check the web page for details.



## february 1/2 lesson

**Series:** 1 John

**Lesson:** Journey through 1 John ch. 3

**Scripture:** 1 John 3 & various

**A STUDY OF**  
**FIRST JOHN**

### Chew Time

- Read Luke 11:33-12:12



## A. Read 3:1-3

† **1 John 3:1** 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.

When John writes about our becoming children of God, he is not thinking mainly in terms of adoption. He is thinking in terms of something more profound. He is thinking of new birth. There is no human comparison to this. If I find a child and want to take him into my home, I cannot cause the child to be born again. I can take him and I love him. And I can influence with love, but I do not get into the very nature of the person and change it.

But God does! The love that John has in view here in **1 John 3:1** is not the love that merely takes care of paper work and adopts. **That would be amazing beyond words—to be adopted into God's family.** And Paul does describe it this way (**Ephesians 1**). But John sees more. God does not just adopt. He moves in, by his Spirit, and imparts something of himself to us, so that we take on a family resemblance.

### When did God plan this?

**Ephesians 1:4-5 (Paul)** **4** Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. **5** God decided in advance to \_\_\_\_\_ us into his own family by bringing us to himself \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

\*\*\***Important Point** to take from this: God is \_\_\_\_\_! God \_\_\_\_\_ it. Nothing happens or exists outside of His knowledge. He predestined us to be conformed to the image of his Son. That is, he caused us to be born again and to be made into new creatures: **2 Corinthians 5:17** This means that anyone who \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ has become a \_\_\_\_\_ person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

### Three Implications of Being in God's Family

#### 1. Children of God Are \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit of God.

It means that we are indwelt and led by the Holy Spirit. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God are children of God. God is transforming us by the renewing of our minds so that we value what He values.

#### 2. Children of God Are \_\_\_\_\_ in the World.

It means that you are different enough from the world that you shine like a light—like a little fragment of God's bright character of truth and righteousness and love.

**Philippians 2:15** Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, \_\_\_\_\_ like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.

To be a child of God is to be in one sense the most fully human that you can be—what God was aiming at in creating us in the first place. But in another sense being a child of God sets you off from the world of humans who are not yet born of God and do not have his Spirit. That's why 1 John 3:1b says that "the world doesn't recognize us." Our values and priorities have been so revolutionized by conformity to Jesus that we don't make sense to the world.

#### 3. Children of God Are \_\_\_\_\_ of All Things.

Being God's children means that we are going to inherit what God owns. Paul says this in **Romans 8:17** And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's \_\_\_\_\_.

*But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.*

We are fellow heirs with Christ. But what is Christ an heir of? Very simply Christ is heir of all things. And we are fellow heirs with him—of all things.

### **A Brief Look at All Creation**

Our planet earth is a small part of a solar system that is 7.3 billion miles across. This solar system is a little speck in the galaxy called the Milky Way which is 80,000 light years across. A light year is how far light travels in a year. Light travels at 186,000 miles per second. So our galaxy is 480,000 trillion miles across. The nearest star to us, Alpha Centauri, would take 4.3 years to get to traveling at the speed of light. The nearest neighboring galaxy would take 2.2 million years to get to at the speed of light.



All creation will be set free into the glorious liberty of the children of God. It is yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's. God has revealed these things to us, not so that we will fall in love with stars, but so that we will see something of the magnitude of his love.

See how great a love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God. And if children, then heirs—heirs of all things. Not for the sake of all things, but for the sake of comprehending the love of God.

### **B. Make it Real**

**CUBIT:** A unit of measure. It was reckoned as the distance from a person's elbow to the tip of the middle finger, approximately eighteen inches.

Have all the students measure the perimeter of the classroom & write it down here: \_\_\_\_\_ cubits.

**Lesson connection:** the love of God is wonderful & unique because it actually comes from another country: in fact it comes from heaven! The love of God is broad, deep, marvelous, unimaginable, incomprehensible, boundless, endless & measureless. When Paul tried to measure it, language forced him to resort to the only standard phrases available to him.

**Ephesians 3:18-19** <sup>18</sup> *And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how \_\_\_\_\_, how \_\_\_\_\_, and how \_\_\_\_\_ his love is.* <sup>19</sup> *May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully.*

### **C Read 1 John 3:4-10**

John is dealing with false teachers who dismiss the importance of walking in the Light of Jesus. If we are saved by the grace of Jesus Christ, does it matter if we continue to sin?

**Romans 6:15-16** <sup>15</sup> *Well then, since God's \_\_\_\_\_ has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! <sup>16</sup> Don't you realize that you become the \_\_\_\_\_ of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Two Important truths from this 1 John passage:**

1. There Are \_\_\_\_\_ Sinless Christians.

*1 John 1:8 If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.*

2. The Born Again in Christ have \_\_\_\_\_.

*1 John 2:1 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.*

How do we know what sin is?

Based upon **Galatians 5:19-21**, here are the “desires of a sinful nature”:

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How do we deal with sin when we encounter it in our lives? Be \_\_\_\_\_ with yourself & with God & fight it through the power of the Holy Spirit.

