



The Manifestation of the Sons of God

'Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him'

(1 Jn.3:1)

- ✓ **John exhorts us to behold the love of God**
- ✓ **The love of God is the root of our salvation**
- ✓ **Satan aims to get us to doubt God's love. His main tool in accomplishing this is wrong teaching, which focuses on fruit rather than root**
- ✓ **What does it mean that God loves us? It means that He only wants to do us good. The Bible says that God rests in His love, lit. is silent because of His love**
- ✓ **The main goal of preaching and teaching is to present the truth of God's love to us in Christ**

□ Jesus **wants us to know this**

'In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God'

(Jn.16:26-27)

Paul prayed that the Church would have a revelation of this

'...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God'

(Eph.3:16-19)

John taught this

'In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins'

(1 Jn.4:9-10)

✓ **In chapter 2 John says that the wonder of God's love is more than our being forgiven and made righteous. He says that we should be amazed that He has made us His children (*teknon* - begotten, i.e. of the same nature, emphasizing nature rather than status) of God**

✓ **He wants us to behold it, i.e. look at it and study it intently**

✓ **'Bestowed' could more literally be translated lavished on us. The word has the idea of one-sided giving; it is by grace**

Who calls us the children of God?

- ✓ **The Father**, *'I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty'* (2 Cor.6:18)
- ✓ **The Son**, *'He is not ashamed to call them brethren'* (Heb.2:11)
- ✓ **The Spirit**, *'The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God'* (Rom.8:16)

✓ **We are mistaken if we think of redemption as merely a restoration of what was lost with Adam. We have much more in Jesus than Adam ever had. 'But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name' (John 1:12)**

✓ **As sons of God we have an inheritance, '...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.8:17)**

- ✓ **But John says that the world does not know us. Because of our unique parentage, we are strangers to this world**
- ✓ **Much of Christianity works hard to show the world just how much like the world we can be**
- ✓ **Approval of the world is to be disdained, not pursued**
- ✓ **If the world knew who we are they would want to be like us**

- ✓ **The world does not know us because it did not know Him, 'And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me' (John 16:3)**
- ✓ **Jesus is the Son of God; but when He was in the world He was not manifested as such. His glory was hidden, veiled**
- ✓ **Those who are in darkness, hate the light. The world ended up crucifying Jesus**
- ✓ **Ultimately, we should expect the world to treat us as it treated Him**

- ✓ **When Jesus returns to this world His glory will be seen by all. And we too will be revealed as sons of God for all to see**
- ✓ *'Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is' (1 John.3:2)*
- ✓ **What we are does not yet appear to the world; what we shall be does not yet fully appear to us**
- ✓ **But we know that we will be manifest as sons of God at the Second Coming**

- ✓ **Paul said of our present walk, 'For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known' (1 Cor.13:12)**
- ✓ **When He is revealed we shall see Him as He is**
- ✓ **Then we will be glorified together with Christ and shall be revealed to the whole of creation as the sons of God**

- ✓ **Being sons means we are heirs, '...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. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us' (Rom.8:17-18)**
- ✓ **Angels are not heirs. They minister to us who are the heirs of salvation**
- ✓ **The sons of God have an inheritance of glory**
- ✓ **Man is always seeking glory, because He was made for glory**

- ✓ **A salvation that did not restore our glory would be incomplete**
- ✓ **We are being prepared for it by the Spirit. *'But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord'* (2 Cor.3:18)**

- ✓ **The Hebrew word for 'glory' means weight or heaviness**
- ✓ **The glory which will be revealed in us as sons of God is much heavier than the weight of the world's glory, *'Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal'* (2 Cor.4:16-18)**

- ✓ **We need to see our sufferings and the glory of this world in perspective**
- ✓ **Paul says that we 'rejoice in hope of the glory of God' (Rom.5:2)**
- ✓ **We have this hope of glory, and it is a hope which does not disappoint, (Rom.5:3-5)**
- ✓ **We are not disappointed with the present, because of the future**

'Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy'

(1 Peter 4:12-13)

- ✓ **The whole of creation is longing for our manifestation as sons of God, 'For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God' (Rom.8:19)**
- ✓ **God is going to put us on show. The world is quickly moving towards this great event – the revealing of the sons of God. And creation is craning its neck or 'standing on tiptoe' (J.B. Phillips) to have a sneak preview of it**

'For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance'

(Rom.8:20-25)

☐ The world was subjected to futility because of the fall

☐ But it was subjected in hope. It awaits the unveiling of the sons of God

When Christ comes and we are glorified with Him, all of nature will be released from its bondage. It will burst into unimaginable beauty.

Summary

***God wants us to meditate upon the wonder of His amazing love in making us His sons**

***The world does not yet recognize us as sons of God, but they will when Jesus appears and we are glorified together with Him**

***Let us resist the temptation to seek after the glory of this world which will fade away instead of the far greater and heavier weight of eternal glory with Him**

***The Spirit Who indwells us helps us to yearn for the true glory awaiting us**