

Mount Zion, April, 2015  
Good Shepherd, April, 2021  
**1 John 3:1-2**

Are you happy with your life? Do you like the person who stares back at you in the mirror every morning?

How do you feel when people criticize you? What do you do when you feel bad about yourself? Do you read a self-help book? Do you go shopping? Or, do you eat your favorite food? Perhaps you might take a short-weekend trip!

Anyone who says they have never struggled about how they feel about themselves is not telling the truth. No one goes through life on a constant emotional high. Some might always appear to be on a constant low, but most of us are like a ping pong ball, sometimes up and sometimes down.

We long for stability. We need something to make us feel good no matter how bad things are in the world. Our text gives us stability. The question I ask you today is -

**What makes you feel good?**

God gives us the answer in His Word:

- *First of all, we feel good because of what God has done for us through Jesus,*
- *Then, we feel good because of what Jesus will do for us when He returns!*

You can tell that John felt good about himself in our text. See the kind of love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! We could translate the beginning of this verse like this: Keep on looking at the love the Father gives us...

John is saying that if we want to feel good about ourselves,

the key is to stop looking at ourselves and to keep thinking about the incredible love that our heavenly Father pours out on us every minute of every day.

How does our heavenly Father love us?

There are four ways, **First**, John says that God's love for you is **great**. That's John's way of saying that God's love can't be measured. There is nothing to compare it to! We can't understand how wide and long and deep and high the love of God is for us!

**Second**, the word for "love" here is the kind of love only God can show.

- *God did not love us because we loved Him.*
- *God did not love us because we are worthy of His love.*
- *God loves us even though we are the worst of sinners!*

God didn't wait for us to become good, He made the first move. John wrote, This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us...

God loved us to death at Calvary when He punished Jesus for our sins instead of punishing us. If you ever feel sorry for yourself, look to the cross. At the cross the Father said, "I love you! My Son died for you! I forgive you everything! You can live with Me forever!"

**Third**, God lavished His love on us! God loves us because we are precious to Him! God is not stingy or selfish with His love. When we need help, we don't have to feel as though we are strangers to our heavenly Father. God adopted us into His family. We are God's children! He stooped down to save us because we could not climb up to Him!

**Fourth**, God calls us His children. God uses other terms in Scripture to describe believers: we are -

- *Saints, we are holy because of the work of Jesus;*
- *Sheep, because we follow our Good Shepherd;*
- *Soldiers, because we are fighting to hang onto our faith;*
- *Children, therefore we are important to the heavenly Father.*

God loves us more than anyone on this earth could ever love us!

- *Just think: as God's children, we are the brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus!*
- *Just think: the Father loves us as much as He loves His Son!*
- *Just think: we enjoy the highest status in the universe – we are children of God!*

We may change through the years, but nothing can change who we are – the children of our heavenly Father!

The world didn't respect Jesus when He walked this earth. The world will not respect us either. But being a Child of God makes us big in the eyes of the One who made the universe and everything in it – and that is all that matters!

The more we appreciate that we are a Child of God, the more we will grow in our confidence as we look to the future. John wrote, We know that when He is revealed we will be like Him, and we will see Him as He really is.

When our Lord returns to take believers to heaven, we will see our Lord, we will have a glorified body, like Jesus did when He arose from the dead. Scripture promises, In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, we will all be changed.

- *Sin will never affect us again.*
- *No pain, no sorrow, no tears, ever.*
- *We will be as happy as newborn calves, jumping for joy on a warm, spring day!*
- *It will be awesome!*

We, the Children of God, will join Jesus in a world that will be full of the wonders of God! We can be sure of that!

Please stand up. (repeat after me)

- God loves me!
- Jesus died for me!
- I am a Child of God!
- I will live in heaven!

Nothing can happen to us on this earth that can ever take that joy from us! And that should make you feel good!

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