

Children and Family of God
1 John 3:1-3



Children – Abide in Him

- **1 John 2:28-29** - ²⁸ **And now, little children, abide in him**, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. ²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has **been born of him**.

Children of God

- **1 John 3:1** - See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

Adoption by God

- **Ephesians 1:4(b)-6** - In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

Benefits of Adoption

1. **A New Father** – “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.” **1 John 3:1**
2. **All Debts Are Legally Cancelled** – “¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.” – **Galatians 2:13-14**

Benefits of Adoption

3. A New Person – “¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. “ – **2 Corinthians 5:17**

4. New Name, New Family, New Rights, New Expectations – “From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. – **Ephesians 4:16**

Benefits of Adoption

5. **New Nature** – “³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.” – **2 Peter 1:3-4**

God's Family vs World's Family

- **1 John 3:1(b)-2** - The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

GOD WILL NOT ACCEPT YOU ON YOUR OWN TERMS

- **John 14:15** - ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
- **Matthew 7:21-23** - ²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’
- **ENTRANCE INTO GOD’S FAMILY AS ONE OF HIS BELOVED CHILDREN REQUIRES OBEDIENCE TO THE HOLY SCRIPTURES**

Characteristics of God's Family

- **Honor Jesus – Place Jesus 1st in Your Life and Desire to Live for Him**
- **John 12:26** - If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

Characteristics of God's Family

- **Serve and Provide for God's Family**
- **Philippians 2:3-4** - ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- **Mark 10:45** - For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Characteristics of God's Family

- **Compassion for the Lost**

- **1 John 3:17-18** - ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Characteristics of God's Family

- **Love One Another – Show the World the Love of the Children of God**
- **John 13:34-35** - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Characteristics of God's Family

- **Holy and Separate from the World**
- **Leviticus 20:26** - ²⁶ You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.
- **1 Peter 2:9** - ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Characteristics of God's Family

- **Set the Example for the Lost**
- **1 Peter 2:12** - ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Child of God – Are You Ready to Meet Jesus?

- **1 John 3:2-3** - ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Run into the Arms of Your Loving Heavenly Father

- **1 John 4:16-19** - ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

I Can Only Imagine

I can only imagine what it will be like
When I walk by Your side
I can only imagine what my eyes will see
When Your face is before me
I can only imagine, yeah

Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You, Jesus
Or in awe of You be still?

Will I stand in Your presence
Or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah?
Will I be able to speak at all?