**CHRIST LOVES CHRISTIANS**

**I John 3:1-2**

[**1**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-John-3-1/)**Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.**

[**2**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-John-3-2/)**Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**

**INTRO:**

**This is a two part series:  Christ Loves Christians; Christians Love Christ**

**I John 4:8-9** [**8**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-John-4-8/) **. . . God is love.** [**9**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-John-4-9/) **In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.**

**1.  The Description of Christ’s Love**

**a.  His Love is Unspeakable**

**b.  His Love is Unending**

**Jeremiah 31:3  The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.**

**c.  His Love is Unmerited**

**- It’s unearned.**

**- It’s undeserved.**

**d.  His Love is Unconditional**

**Song:  His Love is a Boundless Love and it reaches down and touches me.  His Love is a endless love and it lasts through all eternity.**

**2.  The Demonstration of Christ’s Love**

**a.  His Substitution Demonstrates His Love**

**II Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

**b.  His Salvation Demonstrates His Love**

**I Peter 1:18-19** [**18**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Peter-1-18/) **Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;** [**19**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Peter-1-19/) **But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

**3.  The Display of Christ’s Love**

**a.  It’s Displayed as Supernatural**

**a.  Christ came from Heaven because He loves us.**

**b.  Christ came from Holiness because He loves us.**

**b.  It’s Displayed as Sacrificial**

**a.  He chose the cruelty because He loves us.**

**b.  He chose the cross because He loves us.**

**c.  He chose the crucifixion because He loves us.**

**c.  It’s Displayed as Satisfying**

**a.  His love for me satisfies my Soul!**

**b.  His love for me satisfies my Savior!**

**\*\*I know that Christ loves the whole world and that is why He died for our sins!  He loves everyone of us whether we are saved or lost!**

**\*\*There have been many messages on Christ’s love for everybody, but I feel led to preach on Christ’s love for His children!**

**\*\*Christ Loves Christians – I want to remind you of that today.**

**I.  THE MANNER OF CHRIST’S LOVE**

**I John 3:1a Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us,**

**A.  This Love gave us an Anointing**

**I John 2:27  But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.**

**1.  God’s Children have been anointed with the Power of His Salvation!**

**2.  God’s Children have been anointed with the Power of His Spirit!**

**B.  This Love gave us an Assurance**

**1.  He Speaks His Love**

**2.  He Shows His Love**

**\*\*I’m so thankful for the manner of God’s love toward you and me who are Children of God.**

**II.  THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST’S LOVE**

**\*\*Ministry in the Greek is diakoneo or douleuo which means “to serve as a slave”**

**\*\*Christ’s first ministry is to serve His children!  That should be our first ministry as well.**

**\*\*Too many preachers, singers, missionaries, and Christians have missed that their first and greatest ministry is to minister to their children!**

**Illustration:  A dear man of God from this area, who has no doubt helped many people across the country as he pastored and preached revivals and camp meetings, was asked this question.  Do you have any regrets after all these years of travelling and preaching and pastoring?  He said, “I only have one.  I wished I had not taken so many meetings and booked so many camp meetings.  I wished I had just stayed home with my kids more and watched T.V. with them or did more things with them.”**

**A.  He Names Us**

**I John 3:1b that we should be called the sons of God:**

**\*\*It ministers to our soul when Christ speaks and  . . .**

**1.  Names Us Descendents of God**

**2.  Names Us Darlings of God**

**B.  He Nestles Us**

**\*\*There is no greater comfort than to be snuggling comfortably within the arms and the will of God!**

**1.  Makes us feel Secure in Doctrine**

**2.  Makes us feel Sheltered in Duty**

**3.  Makes us feel Shielded in Danger**

**4.  Makes us feel Safe in Death**

**\*\*I’m so thankful for the ministry of God’s love toward you and me who are Children of God.**

**III.  THE MYSTERIES OF CHRIST’S LOVE**

**I John 3:1c  therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.**

**A.  The World Knows Nothing about Our Joy**

**I John 1:4  And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.**

**\*\*Despite all our troubles and trials the world is mystified when they see we still have . . .**

**1.  The Joy of Peace**

**Isaiah 26:3  Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.**

**2.  The Joy of Power**

**I John 5:4  For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.**

**3.  The Joy of Promise**

**I John 5:14  And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:**

**4.  The Joy of Prayer**

**I John 5:15  And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.**

**5.  The Joy of Perception**

**I John 5:20  And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.**

**B.  The World Knows Nothing about Our Journey**

**I John 1:7  But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

**1.  It’s a Holy Journey through the Blood**

**2.  It’s a Helpful Journey through the Battles**

**3.  It’s a Heavenly Journey through the Blessings**

**\*\*I’m so thankful for the mysteries of God’s love toward you and me who are Children of God.**

**IV.  THE MIRACLE OF CHRIST’S LOVE**

**I John 3:2  Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**

**\*\*The Lord performs many miracles in the lives of His children because He loves us!  The greatest miracle has been salvation.  However, the greatest miracle is yet to come when He returns in the clouds to take us home!**

**A.  He’ll Return because of His Powerful Love**

**\*\*His Powerful Love will cause Him to . . .**

**1.  Call Us who are His Children**

**2.  Catch Us who are His Children**

**3.  Change Us who are His Children**

**B.  He’ll Return because of His Proving Love**

**\*\*At His appearing He’ll prove His love for His Children . .**

**1) To the World  2) To the Wicked  3) To the Worshippers**

**\*\*I’m so thankful for the miracle of God’s love toward you and me who are Children of God.**

**CLOSE**

**Illustration: A father of four kids was asked the question, “Why do you love your kids?”**

**The dad thought for a minute and then said, “Because they’re mine.”**

**The kids of this dad did not have to do anything to receive the love of their dad.  He just loved them because they were his kids.**

**Application:  Our Savior and Lord is the same way!  He loves His children and shows us His love everyday!**

**1.  He shows us the manner, the ministry, and the mystery of His love toward us.**

**2.  One day He will show the miracle of His love toward us when He returns in the clouds of glory and says, “Come now children; let’s go home!”**

**3.  There’s no doubt that Christ loves His children.  What I want to know is two things:**

**a.  Are you one of His children?  Will you be in that number that will be called, caught, and changed in a blink of an eye?**

**b.  If you are one of His children, do you behave yourself as one of His own?  Do others know by looking at your life that you are a child of God?**

**4.  If you are not one of His children, the good news is you can be today!  Come and ask God to save you and make you one of His own.**

**5.  If you are one of His and yet there is sin in your life, come and ask your heavenly Father for forgiveness because Christ loves His Children.  Christ Loves Christians!**