

## What Kind of Love; 1 John 3:1-3

### I. Children of God

#### A. Adoption versus (and) Birth

1. I used to think that Adoptive parents had a special love (above and beyond) that of birth parents — simply because they chose to adopt when they could not have any of their own
2. Truly, I never thought we would adopt any children because we have 13 (12 at the time)
3. But all the same “special” feelings that I thought adoptive parents had can also be attributed to birth parents
  - a) Each chose to have a child (in our present society choosing to keep a baby is a reality — the term ‘unwanted pregnancy’ is misnomer)
  - b) Each love their child(ren) with the same kind of love
  - c) Each wants to see their child(ren) succeed in life (spiritually and physically)

#### B. We get the benefit of being both birth and adoptive children — what kind of lavish love is that?!

### II. Birth

#### A. Genesis 1:26–28 (ESV); <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

#### B. God is our birth Father

1. Genesis 1:1–2 (ESV); <sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was **hovering** over the face of the waters.
2. The best way I know how to explain the word ‘hovering’ is an illustration of a hen over her eggs as they are about to hatch
3. An expectant parent as a child is about to be born
4. The same idea is present in Luke 1:35
5. Luke 1:35 (ESV); And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will **overshadow** you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.
6. So God created (gave birth) to Adam and Eve, and every person can trace their lineage back to them

#### C. The thing that speaks ‘lavish love’ to me about this event is that God knew that we would reject Him

1. He knew He would have to flood the earth because mankind’s thoughts were evil continually
2. He knew that even after He showed His ‘lavish love’ to Israel and delivered them from slavery they would reject Him
3. When they cried out for a king He told Samuel, “they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being King over them” (1 Samuel 8:7)
4. When Jesus came in the form (the essence) of God He was rejected
5. There was a definite plan and foreknowledge (Acts 2:23)
6. This plan was created before the foundations of the world (Ephesians 1:4)
7. Yet God loved us children so much that He still created us, knowing all that would happen — all that we would do, the lengths that we would go to to reject Him!

#### D. And that is where the adoption comes in

### III. Adoption

- A. Mankind severed their relationship with God in the Garden
- B. Romans 5:12 (ESV); Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—
- C. God's plan has always been to restore that relationship
  - 1. And the only way to restore it is to adopt us
  - 2. Jesus is the restoration of that relationship
  - 3. It is through Jesus that we receive adoption (Ephesians 1:5)
- D. Adopted children, when it has been completed, become just like natural children
  - 1. Names are changed
  - 2. Birth certificates changed
  - 3. They become heirs of their father
  - 4. Romans 8:15–17 (ESV); <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
  - 5. Galatians 4:4–7 (ESV); <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.
  - 6. John 1:10–12 (ESV); <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,
- E. We have the benefit of being both natural and adopted children

### IV. Like Him

- A. 1 John 3:2 (ESV); 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.
- B. Beloved — “pertaining to one who is dearly loved, dear, beloved, prized, valued” <sup>1</sup>
- C. We shall be like Him
  - 1. There is no way we can understand exactly what that looks like
  - 2. Jesus was changed after His resurrection, but still held a human body complete with the marks of His death
  - 3. Paul tells us we will all be changed (1 Corinthians 15:52)
  - 4. No one gives us a glimpse of what that change will be — and I would rather not speculate
  - 5. Be we can look at Jesus and understand the ‘lavish love’ of the Father in the statement, “we shall be like him”
  - 6. When we receive our resurrection body it will be like Jesus’
  - 7. And I think this statement extends beyond the resurrection body, but also a resurrection mind (understanding)
- D. John tells us, “we shall see him as he is”
  - 1. Our understanding will be changed
  - 2. The apostles attained a miraculous understanding of the spiritual kingdom and the church from the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost
  - 3. Our understanding will be changed because we will no longer be limited by this earthly tent

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<sup>1</sup> William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 7.

- V. Lavish Love
  - A. To be severed, then adopted by the Father regardless of our past behavior
  - B. To be changed to be like His Son
  - C. These can only be described as 'lavish love'