

## We Grow...In Love

### 1 John 3:1-24

#### Introduction:

- A. Welcome and Scripture Reader
- B. This week... We Grow in Love

#### **I We Grow In Love Because We Are Born into God's Family Of Love – 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.*

- A. Forever Family is literal not figurative or metaphorical. It is real.
  - 1. We grow in love because love is our spiritual DNA. We are God's family.
  - 2. The depth of that family is described in other places like this...
  - 3. Adopted through Jesus– Ephesians 1:5
    - a. Carries the idea of chosen and given status.
    - b. What you bring into the family is absorbed.
    - c. It's a commitment.
  - 4. Marked and sealed as sons and daughters with the Holy Spirit– Ephesians 1:13-14
  - 5. We are heirs Galatians 4:4-6; Romans 8
- B. Growing in love because we are born again into God's family of love sets the foundation for the every other level of growth in our lives.

#### **II Growing In Love Changes How We Live - 3:1b** *The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

- A. We begin to live like Jesus in the world.
  - 1. Begin to look different than our old life.
    - a. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:22-24 – taught to...” *to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.*



5. Loving each other involves forgiveness.
  - a. There is a large spectrum of love and forgiveness
  - b. Forgiveness doesn't mean the offense...
    - (1) Didn't hurt, doesn't matter, wasn't' wrong.
    - (2) In fact forgiveness acknowledges it did hurt, it does matter and it was wrong.
  - c. Forgiveness says I'm releasing the offense and the offender to God.
  - d. This is not an overnight process. This is a lifetime.
6. Loving each other involves meeting the needs of others 3:17-18 *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? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

**III We Grow In Love To Completion 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.***

- A. This side of heaven we are incomplete and unsettled.
- B. The state we live in has been described by folks as...
  1. Already but not yet
  2. Living in two worlds
  3. A foot on two shores
- C. We are redeemed children of God that live, as Peter said, as *foreigners and stranger in this world.* (1 Peter 3:11)
- D. It's a battle that's played out in our minds and emotions.
  1. You ever get in your head about things?
  2. We all experience emotional hijack to some degree.
  3. Or as those quite younger than me often say we get "in our feels".
- E. Growing in love to completion means growing to spiritual and emotional maturity.
- F. Here is the truth that gives assurance: *By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before*

***God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. 1 John 3:19-24***

1. We walk imperfectly and by grace in the truth of our relationship with God.
  2. The truth of who God is and who we are in him begins to settle hijacked racing thoughts and emotions.
- G. Our assurance is based on relationship not emotion.
1. He lives in us through his Holy Spirit. We controlled by him not our racing thoughts and emotions.
  2. We are known by him. Romans 8:16, his Spirit testifies to our spirit that we are children of God.
- H. As we grow in love we grow to completeness in him.
1. This hope as children of God and completeness leads us to walk with a sharpened focus settles our mind and re-centers us –
  2. ***3:3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.***

### **Conclusion:**

- A. The section of scripture is bookended by last week's text and these last two verses.
1. This week we end with 3:23-24
 

***And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.***
  2. Last week we started with 2:28-29,
 

***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. If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him.***
  3. It comes full circle back to where we started last week in 2:28-29
- B. The bottom line of the last two weeks of We Grow.
1. We grow in him.
  2. We grow in love.

C. I ask similar questions from last week.

1. Where are you in your grow journey?

a. Are you growing?

b. Hanging on?

c. Digressing?

d. Have you even been born again to grow?

2. The beauty of the gospel is that it promises new life and renewed life.

3. Respond to it or return to it.

D. Offer invite.