

- Importance to understand the basics – those things that are foundational in life ... Basics learned at home, school ... There are basics in following Jesus as disciples – identity in Christ, faith in Christ, transformation in Christ ... Each one is foundational in how we follow Jesus as disciples and how we lead others to follow Jesus as disciples
- John is writing to remind Christians of the Truth and to stand firm in this Truth (v24) ... And in standing firm to rest in the assurance of this Truth (5:13) ... Some of the Truth John writes about deals with identity, faith, transformation ... Each one is grounded in Jesus and our union with Him ... **Remain / Abide** – continue to be present ... Remain in the truth, and by remaining in the truth you'll remain in the Father and Son ... Thus, enjoy promise of eternal life (as he taught in J17:2-3) ... To abide is to belong, and this because of Jesus and your new birth (29) ...
 - **3:1** – **given** – the Father giving His love to you is purely His choosing ... Not something earned or deserved ... His love is given so that you can become His child (4:9-10; Ep1:5) ... Perfect tense: His love is permanent gift ... **We are** – present tense: ongoing ... Once you're His child, you remain His child
 - **3:2** – two realities are spoken ... This side of heaven, we're growing up into who we are ... When Christ returns and is revealed, then our perfect state will also be revealed ... **3:3** – Until then, we stay connected to Jesus and following where the Spirit leads us
- Why? Because of Who we belong to ... As Christians, we're fully known and fully loved ... We're secure in Jesus Christ ... God our Father calls us His very own ... All of this despite our brokenness and struggle with sin ... God didn't set His love on a future version of you ... He set His love on you before you existed ... His love was on you when you were at your worst ... His love opened your ears to the gospel message ... His love caused you to be born-again ... And this act of love enabled you to call out to Him in faith
- **PACKER** – *The entire Christian life is best understood in terms of our adoption as God's children* ... Reveals depth of God's grace ... Reveals work of the Holy Spirit ... Reveals assurance of our salvation ... Reveals motive to obey ... Reveals the imperative to abide in Jesus
- God is continually making His love known to you – 1) His Spirit, 2) His word, 3) His people ... To belong to God is to belong to each other ... As God reminds you of your belonging, so you're to remind others of their belonging ... Encouragement ... Prayers ... Mercy ... Grace
 - Many have been hurt by the church ... What is our part in rectifying this – being who we're supposed to be ... Being a church that welcomes all types of people ... Being a church that strives to speak and practice the gospel in every situation ... Being a church that pursues life transformation not behavior modification
 - Since we're fully known and fully loved by God, and we're secure in this love, it frees us to be authentic and vulnerable with one another ... We're not trying to fit-in, nor are we forcing others to fit-in ... From a secure position in Christ, we strive to fully know and fully love each other, as God loves us (4:11)