

A hand with fingers pointing upwards is visible in the background, set against a soft, cloudy sky with warm tones of orange, pink, and purple. The text is overlaid on this background.

# GOD'S KIND OF LOVE

What Kind Of Love, 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:1-3

## What Kind Of Love

- There are many qualities about Jesus that caused people to marvel at Him
  - His ability to heal every form of sickness, broken body, even raise the dead to physical life again
  - His authority over physical forces in nature, over demons, even Satan himself
- The quality that grasped the Apostle John the most was Jesus' love
  - Not just for the Jewish people but the Gentile outsiders as well
  - Not just the so called "righteous", but the lost, rebellious, spiritually unclean, even those who nailed Him to the cross
    - **Luke 23:34 NIV**, 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

## What Kind Of Love

- We see His kind of love demonstrated in His words to a seeking Religious Leader named Nicodemus
  - **John 3:16-17 NIV**, 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

## What Kind Of Love

- It's now been 50 to 60+ years after the crucifixion and the giving of the Holy Spirit, the miracles and excitement of the early church
  - Most likely the Apostle John was the only surviving eyewitness to the glories of Jesus Christ
  - He has been given the revelations from God about the last days in the book of Revelation
  - He looks out at the Christian communities he loves and knows they are struggling – persecutions, false teachings, unmet expectations of Jesus' return
  - He longs to encourage them; to bring hope they can rejoice in whatever circumstance they find themselves

## What Kind Of Love

- It's now been 50 to 60+ years after the crucifixion and the giving of the Holy Spirit, the miracles and excitement of the early church
  - He knows they need a short letter not a long theological Paul type of letter
  - So what characteristic of Jesus can I remind them of that will encourage them in every circumstance they find themselves in?

## Scripture

- **1st John 3:1-3 AMP**, 1 See (*Behold*) what an incredible quality of love the Father has shown to us, that we would [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are! For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
  - 2 Beloved, we are [even here and] now children of God, and it is not yet made clear what we will be [after His coming]. We know that when He comes and is revealed, we will [as His children] be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is [in all His glory].
  - 3 And everyone who has this hope [confidently placed] in Him purifies (*in the process of purifying*) himself, just as He is pure (holy, undefiled, guiltless).

## What Kind Of Love

- How can I find hope to live in this sinful world, to bring glory to Jesus?
- How can I find confidence to walk on in this painful failure prone world?
- How can I let peace loose in my life as God promised in His Word
- These were the same questions asked by Christians John was writing to
- **1<sup>st</sup> John 1:1 NIV**, That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.
  - **MSG**, From the very first day, we were there, taking it all in—we heard it with our own ears, saw it with our own eyes, verified it with our own hands.
- How can I find hope, peace, strength, truth....today?



## We begin by stopping and recognizing the quality of love the Father has for us

- **Vs. 1**, See (*Behold*) what an incredible quality of love the Father has shown to us
  - Behold – implies an intentional act of observing something remarkable bringing a sense of wonder, awe, and admiration
- John is instructing us in the middle of our daily lives to just stop for just a bit and recognize, “what an incredible quality of love the Father has shown to us”
- What we are beholding determines the direction of our lives and emotions
  - We can behold whatever things are going on in your life bringing you down or stressful, or maybe hurts and disappointments from the past
    - That’s not a very peaceful path to walk down
  - Or we can behold the incredible quality of love God our Father has for us



## **We begin by stopping and recognizing the quality of love the Father has for us**

- John doesn't focus on the love that sent Jesus from the glories of heaven to walk in our shoes
  - He didn't focus on the love that sent Jesus to the cross bearing the sin debt of mankind
  - These all show the provision side of love, the reconciliation side of God's love

## We begin by stopping and recognizing the quality of love the Father has for us

- John focuses on the one type of love that allows us as believers to remain true no matter the events of life
  - **Vs. 1b**, that we would [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are!
- I might be named or known as a child of God in this life by my actions
  - I might even be called a child of God in this life, I hope that's what people see
  - But God my heavenly Father counts me, includes me as His
  - And John in his excitement exclaims, **"That's who we really are"**

## We begin by stopping and recognizing the quality of love the Father has for us

- **Vs. 2**, “Beloved, we are [even here and] now children of God”
  - In your struggle with sin, pain, fear, loneliness, addictions, broken marriages, failures of life—even here we are still, now, forever children of God
  - This world longs to define you and it is always something less than you are
    - Satan longs to push you down and keep you in the pit of despair
  - But God shouts, **“You are my forever son or daughter!”**

## When we get a true grasp of God's quality of love for us, we can trust every other claim or promise He has given us

- **Vs. 2-3**, it is not yet made clear what we will be [after His coming]. We know that when He comes and is revealed, we will [as His children] be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is [in all His glory].
  - False teachers had come in trying to strip away the glory of Jesus, the provision of Jesus on the cross and the bodily resurrection He promised to us
    - **John 14:19 NIV**, 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

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  - God the Father's quality of love for us extends past the grave, past our last breath, extending throughout eternity
  - Because of His great love we can trust Him past the grave, past this life, past all the events that will come into our lives
  - I can have complete trust in Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior

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  - This is what we are preparing for here and now
    - This life is just temporary with Jesus comparing it to a vapor
  - Scripture is not clear on what we will be after His return
    - But we do know this, we will be like Him
    - Glorified eternal bodies, Glorified new nature that is sinless, Glorious life in service to God the Father

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  - And a Glorious new mind that will allow us to be able to see and experience and know Christ in all His glory
  - Behold the quality of God's love but also behold the promises He has sprinkled along the path of life



## The path of discipleship is hard but sweet when we live it through God's incredible quality of love

- **Vs. 3**, And everyone who has this hope [confidently placed] in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure (holy, undefiled, guiltless).
  - **Mark 10:45 NIV**, For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
    - **MSG**, “He came to serve, not to be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for many who are held hostage.”

## The path of discipleship is hard but sweet when we live it through God's incredible quality of love

- **Vs. 3**, And everyone who has this hope [confidently placed] in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure (holy, undefiled, guiltless).
  - The disciples were called by Jesus to set aside their lives, dreams, desires and imitate Jesus
    - To learn to see the world like Jesus does
    - To learn to love others like Jesus did
    - To learn the heart of God
    - To learn how to bring glory to the Father like Jesus did

## The path of discipleship is hard but sweet when we live it through God's incredible quality of love

- **Vs. 3**, And everyone who has this hope [confidently placed] in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure (holy, undefiled, guiltless).
  - To move in the direction of the focus of Jesus' life on earth
    - **John 8:29 NIV**, 29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him."
  - To move the living of our lives in His direction with ever increasing measure
  - To see more of Jesus in my life this year than the last year until I take my last breath
  - This is only possible when we keep focused on the great quality of love God has for us, personally

## What Kind Of Love

- Do you know this quality of love?
- Are you living in and through this quality of love?
- Are you growing up in understanding this quality of love?
- **Philippians 4:13 AMP**, I can do all things [which He has called me to do]
  - through Him (*His love*) who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—
  - I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency;
  - I am ready for anything and equal to anything
  - through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.]

## What Kind Of Love

- How can we be sure this is true?
- **Vs. 1**, See (*Behold with understanding*) what an incredible quality of love the Father has shown to us, that we would [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are!

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