

THE MESSAGE FROM GOD'S LIFE-BUILDING WORD

Maximum Joy: It's All in the Attitude

May 9-10, 2015

1 John 3:1a (New International Version 1984)

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

INTRODUCTION: Attitude Adjusters.

It's All in the Attitude

1. Remember who you are: a Child of God.

- 1 John 2:28 *And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.* – (New International Version 1984)
- 1 John 3:1 *You must see what great love the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children—which is what we are! The reason why the world does not acknowledge us is that it did not acknowledge him.* – (New Jerusalem Bible)

Result: Confidence.

Question: Where do I need to remind myself that I am part of Gods' family?

2. Remember who you are becoming: Reflections of God.

- 1 John 2:29 *Since we know that Christ is righteous, we also know that all who do what is right are God's children.* – (New Living Translation)
- 1 John 3:2 *Dear friends, now we are God's children. What we will be isn't completely clear yet. We do know that when Christ appears we will be like him because we will see him as he is.* – (GOD'S WORD)

Result: Clarity.

Question: Where can I make God's love visible this week?

3. Remember what breaks up the family: Sin destroys!

- 1 John 3:3-6 ³*All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own.* ⁴*All who indulge in a sinful life are dangerously lawless, for sin is a major disruption of God's order.* ⁵*Surely you know that Christ showed up in order to get rid of sin. There is no sin in him, and sin is not part of his program.* ⁶*No one who lives deeply in Christ makes a practice of sin. None of those who do practice sin have taken a good look at Christ. They've got him all backwards.* – (The Message)

Result: Accountability.

Question: What sins do I need to confess and receive God's cleansing and forgiveness?

4. Remember what builds the family: Jesus saves!

- 1 John 3:7-10 ⁷*Children, do not let anyone lead you astray. Whoever acts uprightly is upright, just as he is upright.* ⁸*Whoever lives sinfully belongs to the devil, since the devil has been a sinner from the beginning. This was the purpose of the appearing of the Son of God, to undo the work of the devil.* ⁹*No one who is a child of God sins because God's seed remains in him. Nor can he sin, because he is a child of God.* ¹⁰*This is what distinguishes the children of God from the children of the devil: whoever does not live uprightly and does not love his brother is not from God.* – (New Jerusalem Bible)

Result: Transformation!

Question: Since God has planted His seed in me, what is His Holy Spirit reproducing in my life?

CONCLUSION: Mirror Moments.

G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.



Things I'd like to remember from today's message:

Get each day's GPS downloaded to your computer/phone/etc. by going to this link clcm-gps.com or subscribing through **Feedly.com** (or other RSS Reader) to receive daily updates.

Monday: Read *1 John 2:28*. As John writes of continuing in Jesus, he says this leads to confidence and not being ashamed. How is your confidence level in walking with Christ? What knocks you off your confidence in remembering you are a child of God? Why is it essential that the attitude of Christ be the key to building our confidence? Where do you need to grow in that attitude this week?

Tuesday: Read *1 John 3:1*. In what ways are you like your mom? In what ways are you like Christ? How does the love God gives change your life each day as His child?

Wednesday: Read *1 John 2:29*. John declares that because Jesus is righteous that flows through God's children. When do you sense that God is living through you? Where do you need to pray for God to work His righteousness in your life today?

Thursday: Read *1 John 3:2*. When Christ appears is a reference to His Second Coming, how does Jesus' return give you a sense of urgency in how you live life today?

Friday: Read *1 John 3:3-6*. Although Christians can and do sin, how does knowing Christ change our relationship to sin? Where do you need to confess sin and ask God for a new beginning?

Saturday: Read *1 John 3:7-10*. John often writes with dramatic contrasts. What contrasts does John draw between God's work and the Devil's work? Children of God and Children of the Devil? How do you see the difference at work in your life? Why is the appearance of the Son God essential to destroying the Devil's work in this world and in your life?

Going Deeper

Take time to remember your baptism. What it means to be forgiven. What it means to be God's child.

When we serve, we bring Christ's love to others in deeds and words. How can you reflect God's love to others, with powerful mirror moments? Where can you be more intentional in reflecting Christ's love to others this week?

Continue (or begin) to use Lectio Divina this week.