God’s Overflowing Love

God’s Overflowing Love in 1 John 3:1

**(See) 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!**

The original text begins with the word “see.” This has the sense of “take note,” “perceive,” “look.” John here is calling us to pay attention, to notice and appreciate the kind of love that the Father has lavished on his children. The following notes will display just how great God’s love is.

John can hardly get over the greatness of God’s love. Can anyone blame him for the amazement? That God should love us so as to come down from His glorious heaven to this sinful earth to redeem us by suffering and dying in our place – the whole story is so amazing it can hardly be believed. In fact, it would not be believed if the Holy Spirit has not to convinced us with the power of Gospel. (LL)

The love spoken of here is the love that is unconditional, undeserved, unmerited, unlimited, unimaginable, and unfailing in the person of his Son.

The lavishness of God’s love carries with it that quantity and quality of God’s love. Despite all our iniquity, our selfishness and sinfulness, He has called us His own children through the waters of Baptism. This love God has lavished on us is unique because it is not what our corrupted, and sinful nature deserves; it is not what our thoughts, words, and deeds have earned. (TLSB)

The original word for children is the most enduring name that can be given to anyone. This love from God has earned for us the right to be called his “children.” Not only are we called children, but in fact we are His children.

Believers are not just “named” children of God, but are actually reborn as His children, are actually “fathered” by God. This is no metaphor, for a new being is created (2 Cor. 5:17). God promises that He has made us His children. Despite the lies, deceptions, and partial truths of the world, God has never lied to us, and He has never failed to do what He has promised. You can count on Him. (TLSB)