

## *God's Kind of Love*

### **1 John 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.**

The word “see” has the connotation of calling attention to what is about to be said. It means “be very, very alert because something really, really important is about to be shared.”

The love said here is not your everyday run of the mill love. It is the “agape” love, that is unconditional, undeserved, unmerited, unlimited, unimaginable, and unfailing in the person of his Son. *Agapē* is not merely an attitude or a feeling, but it is something that leads to action. The love spoken of here is expressed not only in emotion, but in the action of the Father in sending his Son as the atonement for our sins.

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 convinced us the power of Gospel. It is love that the Father has lavished on us.

We have received Christ through faith. Membership in God's family is by grace alone – the gift of God [Eph 2:8-9]. It is never a human achievement. (CSB) We are God's children now by the declaration of the Father acting in Christ to restore us to Himself. In Baptism, we have the seal of that promise applied to us by water and the Word.

God calls believers by various new names: we are His servants, a nation, His royal priests, soldiers. But the dearest term of all is that He calls us His children. And that's not just an honorary title – He has literally adopted us into His family, making us brothers and sisters of His Son Jesus, through Baptism. Paul writes in Galatians 3:26 that we are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus, for all who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. Our baptismal certificates are also our adoption papers.

Prayer: Dear Lord God, Heavenly Father thank you for your boundless love for us. Thank you for making us Your dear children. Amen