



LESSON 5: 1 JOHN 3

HOW GREAT IS THE FATHER'S LOVE!

Please read 1 John 3:1-2.

How have you experienced the lavishing of God's love in your life?

Our understanding of God as our Father is, in part, dictated by the way our own natural fathers treated us. If we had a father who was loving and attentive, it is easier for us to understand how God looks out for and provides for us. A natural father who was harsh and judgmental may lead us to see God in this way and to have a hard time understanding and accepting the mercy and compassion of the Lord. To help us learn to distinguish our earthly father's behaviors and attitudes from those of our Heavenly Father, let's take a few moments to define each.

Describe your dad or the man who stood in the place of a dad in your life.

What are/were some of the things he did to show you love?

What are/were some of the things that he has done that made you feel like you were not good enough?

Can you recall a time when your dad showed you grace and mercy? (Was there any time when he offered forgiveness and compassion when you perhaps didn't deserve or expect it?)

How would you describe the 'perfect' father?

How do you think your experiences with an earthly father affects your view of God?

OUR ADOPTION AS GOD'S CHILDREN

DEMANDS PURITY

Please read 1 John 3:3-10.

How should we behave based on our adoption as God's sons and daughters?

What does it mean to you to live a pure life?

Please read Proverbs 15:26.

Why should we have pure thoughts?

Please read Psalm 119:9-11.

How do we keep our lives pure?

How do you hide God's word in your heart?

Love

Please read 1 John 3:12-15.

How would you describe the world's treatment of their fellow man?

How is that supposed to be different for the body of Christ?

Why do you think we can have that kind of a different treatment and attitude towards others?
(even those who hate us)

Please read verse 16.

What does it mean to lay our lives down for our brothers?

There are many ways that we can lay our lives down that do not involve actually dying. For each of the suggestions on the left, list some ways that we can lay those things down for the sake of others. (Romans 14:19-21 and 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 may help.)

Motives	
Thoughts	
Freedoms	
Opportunities	
Honor or Fame	
Any other ways:	

Please read 1 John 3:17.

How does this speak to you personally?

Please read 1 Timothy 6:18-19.

What should be our motivation for sharing our material possessions?

Please read 1 John 3:18-24.

How are we to show love for one another?

Why do you think it is so important to show our love for one another in actions and not simply in words?

James 2:26 says, “As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”

How can our actions (or deeds) show our faith?

“May all professors of the gospel lay these truths to heart, and test themselves by them.”

Matthew Henry