

1 John 3:1-3

1 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 reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Embracing our identity as Abba's child...

1. Internalizes the bedrock truth—"I am loved by God". (v. 1)

"Define yourself radically as one beloved by God; God's love for you and his choice of you constitute your worth. Accept that, and let it become the more important thing in your life."

– John Eagan

"I am loved. Deeply loved. And when I let that love define who I am, I am suddenly free to be myself." – Jon Foreman

2. Surrenders to the journey of becoming who we are not yet. (v. 2)

changed and changing

"Jesus says, 'Acknowledge and accept who I want to be for you: a Savior of boundless compassion, infinite patience, unbearable forgiveness, and love that keeps no score of wrongs. Quit projecting onto Me your own feelings about yourself. At this moment your life is a bruised reed, and I will not crush it; a smoldering wick, and I will not quench it. You are in a safe place.'"

– Thomas Merton

3. Gains autonomy from controlling relationships

1 John 3:3

Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Becoming a person who is *inner directed* rather than *outer determined*.

"Look at your life and see how you have filled its emptiness with people. As a result they have a stranglehold on you. See how they control your behavior by their approval or disapproval. They hold the power to ease your loneliness with their company, to send your spirits soaring with their praise, to bring you down to the depths with their criticism and rejection. Take a look at yourself spending almost every waking moment of your day placating and pleasing people, whether they are living or dead...And observe how even when you control them you depend on them and are enslaved by them. People have become so much a part of your being that you cannot even imagine living a life that is unaffected and uncontrolled by them."

– Anthony de Mello



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