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Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

What a Love!

Wow, would you look at this love!!! Read 1 John 3:1-3. There are loves and there are loves. A mom loves her kids and will **tear** your eyes out if you offend them. But God's love is greater. A football fan will paint himself all manor of colors and act an absolute fool. But God's love is greater. A young couple absolutely lose touch with reality... lost in their love. But God's love is greater. Without batting an eye our soldiers are dying for freedom and love of country. But God's love is greater.

John said, "behold what manner of love God has" 1 John 3:1-3. The evidence of that love - that we would be called the sons of God. What an awesome honor, what an awesome gift! If I were to be called a servant of God, that would be great enough. Further, to be called an ambassador of this king is such a worthy and exalted title. But, to be called a son (with all rights and privileges) is beyond our imagination.

But you know it gets better. Verse 2 says -"now" we are sons... we do not know what we will be. He is, of course, referring to our heavenly home. We will then be like Him. We will then see Him as He is. So, we know "now." And that is great enough. But what we "shall be" no one can even imagine.

So, because of all that, we have hope in our hearts (that's verse 3). Realizing we are sons of God, we purified ourselves. Realizing we are headed for forever, we purify ourselves. So, the future reality influences our present behavior. The love we experience and the hope we have, motivates us, pushes us, and inspires us to live differently.

Here are conclusions: (1) I am eternally loved - He has loved me. Others may not, but He does. (2) I belong - I am His son. I have been bought and paid for and now belong to Him. (3) I have a reason to live - someone to love me (and someone to love), and a secure future. (4) And the timing of all this is fantastic - now, I have been loved. Not in heaven, not when I'm good, not if I maintain my holiness - now. The love I have (now), the secure future (then), gives me hope to press on.

Pressing on with Joy,

Bro Jerry