

20210530 VISION AND TRAITS OF GOD'S CHILDREN

Deeper into Fellowship and Love Part 7

(1 John 3:1-12)

Galatians 3 (from various verses)

"Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Romans 8:29

²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

1 John 3:1

¹ See what great 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.

Three prerequisites that we need to grasp to fully understand our vision as the children of God

1. God's love
2. Our present status
3. The reason of the ignorance of the world

OUR VISION ACCORDING TO 1 JOHN

- To be like Jesus Christ -

1 John 3:2

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 Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

John 17

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began."

OUR TRAIT WITH THE VISION: PURITY

1 John 3:3

³ All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure.

Two major traits of purity according to John

1 John 3:10

¹⁰ ...Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

1. Doing right (Law abiding attitude)

2. Loving brothers and sisters in Christ (Fellowship)

HOW GOD COMPLETES THIS VISION AND TRAITS IN US

Three stages in God's work for us

The First stage: Renewing our spirit

Ephesians 2:8

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)

The Second stage (current): Renewing our mind

1 Peter 1;4-7

⁴ ...This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. (1 Peter 1:4-7 NIV)

Romans 12:2

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be

able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

The Third stage (final): Renewing our body

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

According to the bible, especially the relevant passages in the New Testament on our future body, we can conclude the following concerning the resurrection of the body.

1. It will be a genuine body like that of Christ.
2. It will be both permanent and indestructible.
3. In some sense, it will be the same body that was put in the grave, but in another sense it will be different. There is some mystery with respect to the resurrection body that the Scriptures do not fully explain.
4. Though there will be a certain physical connection between the old and new, the nature of that connection is not explained.
5. What we do know is that our resurrected bodies will be something glorious. We will also talk more about this subject in another message.

APPLICATION

1. Train myself to think right.

Philippians 4:8

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)

2. Train myself to do what is right.

1 John 3:7

⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. (1 John 3:7)

3. Train to love other Christians.

Galatians 6:10

¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:10)