

## The Stunning, Saving, Purifying Power of God's Love I John 3

Everything we call love has its origins in God Who is Love. (I Jo 4:8,19) That means everything about our belovedness is otherworldly. There is a manner, a greatness, a stellar quality to this Lover/Beloved relationship that John asks us to pause and consider. Being unearthly - not naturally found in the created realm - it is of another realm, comes from another Source. You might even call it "alien". Therefore, it must be imported... bestowed, freely given as a gift. (We call that grace, and it is amazing!) John calls us to stop in wonder, to be astonished and stunned by God's kind of love. The very love the Father has for His Son (Jo 17:23) He has for "us" -for you and me! Selah.

Out of this First Love comes our second birth. (I Jo 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1) There is not only a stunning power to God's love, but also a saving power. (Jo 3:16) Make no mistake, we are not saved, born from above, because God loves us. But, because He loves us He has come in the Person of His Son to do for us all it takes to be saved, born from above. (I Jo 4:10) Everyone who believes into Him is born of Him, born from above, born again. All those of the second birth are called by a new name - "children of God." A high calling, indeed. Yet, that is more than a name , a title. It is who "we are". We are not waiting to be, hoping to be, praying to be, dying and then getting to be - we already are children of God. The origins and the destiny of our belovedness, of our always being-loved children-ness, are settled and fixed now and forever in and by the God Who is Love.

There is most definitely a stunning power and a saving power to God's Love. There is also a purifying power to the Love of God. "Everyone" (not the specially enlightened, disciplined, or well-behaved few) who fixes their confidence on the Pure Lover is, himself, being purified. Do you want to experience the purifying power of God? Do you want to let go of all God-unlikeness? (Of course you do!) Then fix your eyes on the stunning, saving, purifying Lover - Jesus Christ the Lord. Get lost in and fascinated with the perfect love of God - Jesus Christ the Lord. (I Jo 4:18) John has nothing to say about assessing your personality traits, testing for your spiritual gifts, imitating new patterns of behavior, or acquiring secret, sacred illumination. He simply says, "Fix your hope on Him". He is the stunning, saving, purifying Love of God for you. A careful look, a fascinated consideration, a steady attentiveness to Him will cancel out every unloving, ungodly option. Stay focused on Him and the love of God will leave you no choice but to be a purer and purer expression of His Life. (II Cor 5:14)

Look at Him until you see Him for Who He is - the Perfect Lover. Look at Him until you see yourself in His eyes - perfectly loved!

✕

- **Tax-deductible contributions** -  
may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.*  
13820 NW 172nd Ave, Alachua, FL 32615
- **Messages and sermons by Steve** -  
[www.stevepettitmessages.com](http://www.stevepettitmessages.com)
- **Conferences and events led by Steve** -  
can be arranged by calling Steve at 352-672-1275
- **To receive this newsletter electronically** -  
email your request to [OICnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:OICnewsletter@gmail.com)

## Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



Please inform us of any changes to your address



# Greetings

Have you noticed we'll do practically anything to save what we truly love? Car lovers will put countless hours and thousands of dollars (tens of thousands?) to save and restore an old car that nostalgically takes them back to days of youthful glory and energy. Animal lovers will extravagantly spend to sacrificially save and care for a beloved pet that is sick or injured. Trout lovers will invest extraordinary amounts of time, energy, and money to save and protect cold, clear water for their beloved fish. Tree lovers will chain themselves to trees and stand defiantly in the path of bulldozers to save and protect the forests they so deeply love. Freedom lovers all over the world pay a high price to fight for the liberty of those they dearly love. Do we even need to mention those who truly love their families, those for whom no hour is too late, no distance is too great, no cost is too high to pay to save that child, that spouse, that parent in harm's way?

We'll do practically anything to save what we truly love. Where do you think that comes from? Or, should I ask, Who do you think that comes from?

# CALENDAR

All our events for March - June are currently cancelled or delayed. However, our first event will hopefully be in Way-Mart, PA July 9-11. Contact Don Frantz for the latest details at 607-239-5006

## Praise & Prayer



For being His always loved children



For eyes to see opportunities to love with His Love



For the church to have Christ as its focus



For the love of God to liberate our fearful land