

For the past several weeks I have been sharing 1 John 3:1-3 in hospitals, nursing homes, home visits, and counseling sessions. The more I seek to obey John's command to look at and consider the Father's kind of love, the more I realize how much I do not comprehend. God is worthy of far more glory for His kind of love than I have given Him. Let us endeavor together to examine with careful intensity this love that is beyond full comprehension.

### **1 John 3:1-3**

**Behold** what *manner of love* the Father has **bestowed** on us, **that we** should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, **now** we are children of God; and it has **not yet** been revealed what we shall be, but we know that **when** He is revealed, **we shall** be like Him, for **we shall** see Him as He is. And **everyone** who has this **hope** in Him **purifies** himself, **just as He is pure**.

### **Exclamation – “Look”**

As John turns our attention once more to the love of God, you can almost see him extend his hand, pointing his finger in startled amazement as he is overwhelmed yet again at God's kind of love. He calls us to stop, look, consider, recognize, and really see with renewed clarity the love of God in Christ that has been placed upon us. In John 20 we have the account of Peter and John running to the empty tomb, John looking, then Peter stepping in and examining, then John stepping in and seeing with understanding. While three different words are used successively for seeing, it is this last one that speaks of John's seeing with understanding that he uses in his command of us... "Look, look carefully, look until you see it with understanding!"

### **Examination – “this kind of love”**

We are called to examine carefully and with understanding the nature of this one-of-a-kind love that comes to us from The Father. The word translated “manner” or “kind” is used in another setting which left John equally stunned. Mark 8:27, after Jesus stilled the storm, the terrified disciples asked incredulously concerning Jesus, “what kind of man is this, that even the winds and waves obey Him?!” What kind of man, indeed. Extraordinary, unlike any other, one of a kind, divine! As God is God and there is no one to compare Him to, so His love is a one of a kind love!”

I ask you what I have been asking myself and those with whom I have been sharing this passage: “Describe for me this kind of love.... “God's love is a (blank) love.”

As to Time Psalm 103:17; Jeremiah 31:3 Eternal, enduring, endless, everlasting

As to its Measure John 3:16; Exodus 34:6; Eph 3:14-19 Infinite, boundless, overflowing, uncontainable, inexhaustible, deeper, higher, wider, longer, incomprehensible, rich, generous, lavish, extravagant, unrestrained

As to its Permanence Psalm 136, Psalm 6:4 Unfailing, constant, changeless, inseparable

As to its Intensity Personal, sacrificial, self-giving, suffering, costly

As to its Purpose Romans 8 Ephesians 1:3-14 Saving, freeing, forgiving, electing, regenerating,

justifying, adopting, reconciling, restoring, transforming

As to its Moral Quality Righteous, pure, honest, real, sincere, true

As to its Expression 1 Cor 13 Patient, kind, tender, humble, generous, knowledgeable, exclusive, possessive, jealous, protective, treasuring

As to its Effect Jere 31:3 Romans 5 Zeph 3:17 Heb 12:6 Received, experienced, known, felt, drawing, hope producing, heart filling, quieting, chastening, keeping

As to its Reality John 3 Promised, manifested, revealed, bestowed, demonstrated, proved, recognized

As to its Object 1 John 4 Prior, unearned, undeserved, gracious, merciful

## Transformation

This one of a kind love has been placed on us so that we become God's children. This love is not something to be admired, but rather received. God does not hoard this love, but lavishes it on us in full measure. He places it upon us, to be sure it goes where He as determined it should: on us! And the result is salvation! We are changed and transformed fully and forever, by this kind of love!

It is not difficult to find 100 words to describe God's kind of love. Start your list today! Make it a family project, a small group exercise, or a church service endeavor.

"Look at the kind of love the Father has placed upon us so that we have become God's children."  
Because of this kind of love...

We who were enemies are beloved children.

We who were aliens are heirs.

We who were uncaring are cared for.

We who were godless are God's own.

We who were trash are treasured.

We who were dead are alive.

We who were empty are filled to overflowing all because of this kind, this one of a kind, God's kind of love!

Phillips, Craig and Dean

"What kind of love is this?"

What kind of love is this,

That climbs the hill,

That bears the cross,

That takes the nails?

What kind of love is this,

That takes my place,

That gives His life,

And clears my name?

Oh, I want to know

What kind of love is this?

What of love is this,

That gives His Son

That bears the sin of everyone?

What kind of love is this,

That cries alone,

That tastes of death

To bring me home?

Oh, I want to know  
What kind of love is this?

What kind of love is this,  
That fills my soul,  
That lifts me up,  
And makes me whole?  
What kind of love is this,  
That gives me hope,  
That dries my tears,  
And brings me joy?  
Oh, I want to know  
What kind of love this is?

Chorus:  
It's wonderful,  
It's glorious,  
It's full of grace,  
And full of mercy,  
Powerful,  
It's marvelous.  
That's what this love is.  
That's what God's love is.

#### **SELF CHECK:**

- 1) Have you forgotten what kind of love God has placed on you to make you His own?
- 2) Is your heart awe-struck as you consider this kind of love?
- 3) How has "this kind of love" changed your life?

#### **FOR FURTHER STUDY:**

Psalm 136 NIV

Refer to the verses above in the section that describes aspects of God's one of a kind love.

"Lord God, Your love caused You to give Your only Son to save me. Your love is from everlasting to everlasting, undiminished, unchanging, and undeserved. This love, your one-of-a-kind kind of love is incomprehensible, inseparable and bestowed upon me. Amazing love, how can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?! Fill me with an ever increasing knowledge of Your love, that my life be transformed into a vessel through which You manifest Your love to the world. You have commanded me to love others "as you have loved me" with Your one-of-a-kind kind of love. It is only by Your love in me that I can ever hope to fulfill this glorious calling. Fulfill Your purpose in me, O God of love eternal. I pray in the name of Him who manifested Your love, and manifests it forever more, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

**Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.**

***Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Ron & Val***

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable,  
changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible  
with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows,

spending our time on eternity,  
owning nothing yet possessing everything  
that matters and lasts.  
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.  
Welcome to THE JOURNEY