

Connect Group Discussion Guide

SERMON DATE	SERMON SERIES	SERMON TITLE
12/05/2021	What Kind of Love	Love, child
Message on YouTube	▶ What Kind of Love Part 3 3	

MESSAGE ABSTRACT:

Continuing our series, *What Kind of Love: living the epic love story*, through 1 John, we turn our attention this week to chapter 3. And it starts with the BIG idea (truth, really): *How great is the love the Father lavished on us, that we should be called children of God. (3:1)*

Lavish love that makes an enemy of God, His child. That's not a nice sentiment, it's an extreme transformation. In fact, as extreme as it gets. There are three attributes of a child we discussed: being a child is not our decision, it's His; being a child means sharing in their parent's legacy; and, a child imitates his parents.

As we learn to imitate God, there are three ways we can be purified:

1. **Purify our lifestyle (1 John 3:4-10).** While we may sin, we are no longer living in a lifestyle of sin. Our desire is to do what's right and it bothers us when we don't live up to that desire.
2. **Purify our love (1 John 3:11-18).** We grow by practicing love. And Jesus is our role model for love.
3. **Purify our loyalty (1 John 3:19-24).** Loyalty is a commitment of the heart. And we can rely on the Spirit to convict our hearts and to let us know what pleases God.

God made us His child. But He didn't have to. He didn't have a *need* to. He *wanted* to. We are a wanted child--and that makes all the difference.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. In what way did God speak to you in the message this past weekend?

2. Share a favorite childhood memory with your parents? How did they show their love to you?
3. If Jesus were staying at your home, and going to your work, what would you do differently?
4. 1 John 3:21 says that when our hearts are at peace (“do not condemn us”) we have confidence before God? What does that confidence mean and how might it affect you? (See also 1 John 3:22).
5. Apathy is the one thing that will keep us from fully pleasing Him. What are ways you’ve found to keep your passion for Jesus strong?