



DIGGING DEEPER

Rooted: God's Children...

Wanna do some more study, follow a few rabbit trails and get a more rich understanding of this past week's sermon? Here are some of the things that either got briefly mentioned in the sermon or had to get omitted due to time. Have fun!

God as Father in the Hebrew Scriptures

This is a great overview of the OT view of God as the Father of Israel. Check it out: <https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/250901>.



Who wrote 1, 2, 3 John?

This is a great article from Zondervan Academic: <https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/who-wrote-1-2-3-john>

Are all People Considered Children of God?

We are all created by God, but we are not all God's children (1 Corinthians 8:6; Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:16). Perhaps no Scripture verse better makes this point than John 1:12–13, which states, "But to all who did receive him [Jesus], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

It is not natural descent, but regeneration that makes one a child of God (John 3:5–8). By nature, because of the fall of Adam and Eve, we are born in sin and are therefore children of wrath, disobedience, and the Devil (Psalm 51:5; Ephesians 2:3). However, God did not leave us in that deplorable state. Instead, because of His great love for us, God sent His only begotten Son to pay the ransom our sins required (Matthew 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:5–6). Those who believe in Jesus Christ and trust in Him alone for forgiveness and salvation receive the Spirit of adoption (Romans 8:15, 23; Galatians 4:5–7; Ephesians 1:5). Those who have the Spirit are the children of God. And those who have been regenerated by the Spirit and have become children of God will show evidence of their adoption by way of a transformed mind and life (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18).

If everyone was a child of God from birth then neither the sacrifice of Christ nor adoption by God would be necessary. The truth is that only those who have been born again, born of the Spirit by believing in Jesus Christ, are the children of God. Only those who can call Jesus Lord and Savior can call God "Abba Father" (Galatians 4:6–7). Therefore, although we are all creations of God only those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ (i.e., Christians) are God's children.

1 John Resources

BIBLE PROJECT VIDEO ON 1-3 JOHN

https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-3-john/?utm_source=web_social_share&medium=shared_video



OVERVIEW

John calls followers of Jesus to share in God's own life and love by devoting themselves to loving one another.

Each book also addresses deceivers and teachers who no longer acknowledge that Jesus is the Messiah or Son of God. They are instead spreading fear and division among Jesus' followers. John says that all legitimate teachers will share the truth about Jesus and the cross, love others sacrificially, and spread love and light rather than fear.

He also reminds believers to welcome true missionaries who teach the message of the cross and love others. They should not welcome deceivers or make idols of anything that exalts itself in God's place.

A Series of Letters

Written by John the elder to early Christians attending house churches, 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John echo the Gospel of John. They emphasize that every true believer will demonstrate God's light and love.

