

**1 John 3:1 - 24***English Standard Version*

1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called  
 2 children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know  
 3 us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now, and  
 4 what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears  
 5 we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who  
 6 thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. <sup>4</sup>Everyone who makes a  
 7 practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You  
 8 know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.  
 9 <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning  
 10 has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you.  
 11 Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup>Whoever  
 12 makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning  
 13 from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the  
 14 works of the devil. <sup>9</sup>No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for  
 15 God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has  
 16 been born of God. <sup>10</sup>By this it is evident who are the children of God, and  
 17 who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness  
 18 is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. <sup>11</sup>For this is the  
 19 message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one  
 20 another. <sup>12</sup>We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and  
 21 murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds  
 22 were evil and his brother's righteous. <sup>13</sup>Do not be surprised, brothers, that  
 23 the world hates you. <sup>14</sup>We know that we have passed out of death into life,  
 24 because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.  
 25 <sup>15</sup>Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no  
 26 murderer has eternal life abiding in him. <sup>16</sup>By this we know love, that he  
 27 laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the  
 28 brothers. <sup>17</sup>But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in  
 29 need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?  
 30 <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.  
 31 <sup>19</sup>By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart  
 32 before him; <sup>20</sup>for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our  
 33 heart, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our heart does not condemn  
 34 us, we have confidence before God; <sup>22</sup>and whatever we ask we receive  
 35 from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.  
 36 <sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son  
 37 Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.  
 38 <sup>24</sup>Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And  
 39 by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

**I believe in God the Father...****Observation (What does it say?):**

- Circle all occurrences of the word "God" in the passage.
- What else do you observe in the passage? What else stands out to you?

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

- List everything you see about God in the passage:
- How does the passage relate "Father," "God," "Son," "Spirit"?
- What questions come to mind as you read?
- Why do you think the section on God the Father is the shortest part of the Creed?

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

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### Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

#### **Observation** (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

#### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

#### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**