



## **Living as the Children of God**

### **1 John 3:1-10**

*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not (1 John 3:1—KJV).*

*See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him (1 John 3:1—NASB).*

*See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him (1 John 3:1—NRSV).*

God loves everyone, and that is why God sent Jesus Christ into the world. Those who believe in Jesus Christ receive eternal life, but this is not God's only gift. John reminds us that God has also given His love to those who trust Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, and they become children of God. God becomes their Father and Jesus becomes their Brother. Their Father and Brother then expect them to live differently from the world. Living differently from the world includes God's children purifying themselves because God is pure, avoiding sin (which is lawlessness) because Jesus came to take away sin, doing right because God is righteous, and loving their brothers and sisters in the family of God. Even with the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit, no child of God always thinks and acts perfectly. Only Jesus was and is the perfect example and teacher. Thankfully, as members of God family, "What we do know is this: when He (Jesus) is revealed, we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2). The followers of Jesus are not all they want to be in the world, but someday they will live exactly as Jesus has planned and they will always think and act perfectly. John explained that the world behaves differently from the way God expects His children to behave because the world does not know God or His children; therefore, God's children love others and share the truth about God.

## Thinking Further

1. List three ways the Father has shown His love for us.
2. As followers of Jesus Christ, why does the world not know us?
3. When will the followers of Jesus be like Jesus?
4. List three things the followers of Jesus will do.
5. From these verses, why was the Son of God revealed?