

I. God has given us his love

- A. God’s love for us is great

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

- B. God’s love for us is a lavish gift
C. God’s love must be received by faith

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)

II. God has given us our identity

- A. It is a gift from God to be his children

“In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.” (Ephesians 1:5)

- B. Our core identity should be as children of God
C. As children of God we enjoy intimacy with God
D. As children of God we share a family likeness

“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Romans 8:29)

- E. As children of God we live a life of obedience
F. As children of God we live a life of purity

“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, be holy in all you do.” (I Peter 1:14-15)

- G. As children of God we live a life of confidence

“We know that we are children of God.” (I John 5:19)

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” (Romans 8:16)

- H. As children of God we have an inheritance

“Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” (Romans 8:17)

III. God has given us an identity that is in opposition to the world

- A. The world will not understand us

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (I Corinthians 1:18)

B. The world will oppose us

C. The world will try to give us a false identity

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (Romans 12:2)

D. We resist the world by remaining confident in our identity as children of God