

A MANIFESTATION OF THE TRUTH

1 John 2:28 – 3:24

The Scriptures clearly state that Christ existed eternally as the Son of God and at a point in time took upon Himself the nature of a sinless human being. (John 1:14; 1 Tim. 1:15) The word manifest is defined as being made clear to the sight or understanding; revealed. As we continue our celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ, let us make sure we are clear as to how His manifestation affects our appearance.

I. HIS APPEARANCE AFFECTS OUR BEHAVIOR

1 John 2:28-3:9

And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. [29] If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. [2] Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. [3] And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

[4] Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. [5] And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. [6] Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. [7] Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. [8] He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. [9] Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

- A. Real believers develop purity in a world full of temptations
- B. Christ came to deliver us from our sins, not overlook them
- C. Christ came to destroy everything Satan desires to use against us

II. HIS APPEARANCE DRAWS A LINE BETWEEN THE TWO FAMILIES

[10] In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. [11] For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, [12] not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. [13] Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. [14] We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. [15] Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

- A. Loving relationships prove which family you belong to
- B. Don't be surprised when you irritate unbelievers
- C. A hateful spirit is evidence of a "hellish" spirit (v.14-15)

III. HIS APPEARANCE TEACHES US LOVE IN ACTION

[16] By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. [17] But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? [18] My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. [19] And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. [20] For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. [21] Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. [22] And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. [23] And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

[24] Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

- A. You cannot love without sacrificing
- B. Real love will support words with action
- C. Assurance of salvation and answered prayers flow from loving obedience

CHRIST JESUS WAS MANIFESTED TO SAVE SINNERS. ARE YOU CLEAR ABOUT WHERE YOU ARE HEADING?

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December 26, 2004*