

**Life That Is Real**  
**“How To Know That You Know Him”**  
**I John 2:3-11**  
**Pt. 7**

**Introduction** - In this first epistle of John, our profession of faith in Jesus is put to the test! Why? To find out if it's real! (5:11-13)

There are three tests:

1. The moral test of obedience, 1:6.
2. The social test of love, 2:9-10.
3. The doctrinal test of belief, 2:22-23.

Ask yourself, *do I pass the test?*

But, John's not finished with his test. These three tests are given three times or in three cycles. The first cycle of test are now over, John's second cycle now begins, but it's not mere repetition. The subject is still the Christian life, but rather than fellowship with God, the focus is now "sonship".

So the key to this new cycle of test is the concept of "new birth" the true Christian is one who has been born of God and so bears the family likeness!

"Like father, like son" is true of every member of God's family.

In our text today John introduces the subject of "*the children of God*".

He tells us two things about "the children of God".

1. Their divine origin.
2. Their unique privileges.  
Let's read our texts! 2:29-3:3.

### **I. The Children of God; Their Divine Origin, 2:29.**

#### **1. A Child of God; has been born of God.**

- It's God's work, we simply receive it by faith.
- John 1:12, 13, "*But as many as received him...*"
- God did not impart spiritual life to us to abandon us!

## **2. A Child of God; Practices righteousness** (it is the evidence of the new birth).

“Doeth righteousness.” It’s “doeth habitually.” See 3:7 & 3:1,10.

- “Since you know that He is righteous, be assured that every one also who acts righteously is a child of His.” -Phillips

## **II. The Children of God; Their Unique Privileges, 3:1-3.**

- The true child of God has been born of God, and manifest the righteousness of God.”
- John now enlarges on the wonder and glory of their new relationship with God.

Note: There are three privileges John mentions.

### **1. A Child of God is a Recipient of the Love of God, vs. 1a.**

- Don’t take His love for granted.
- “What manner” - a single word in Greek, it always connotes surprise mingled with wonder and astonishment.

Illus.: Jesus on the sea, “What manner” of man.....

Also, originally it meant “of what country” - it came to mean “of what sort”. So “how great” or “how wonderful”.

It’s unique! It’s out of this world!

What it’s like (4:9-11):

- It’s eternal.
- It’s unconditional.
- It’s limitless.

### **2. A Child of God; is a member of the family of God, vs. 1b.**

A. John “tekna”, children, born ones. Paul “huios” son, legal sons!

B. “And we are” - Spurgeon - “*a genuine fragment of inspired Scripture too precious to be lost*”.

C. If we are then, why doesn’t the world recognize us as such?  
Jesus said, John 15:18, “*If the world hate you....*”

**3. A Child of God; will be a partaker of the Glory of God, vs. 2-3.**

We learn that “God’s love takes us all the way home.”

A. It does not yet appear what we shall be. We see the glass dimly. I Cor. 13. So don’t speculate.

B. But we know; Ask what we know?

1. Jesus is coming, vs. 2.
2. We shall be like Him, vs. 2.
3. We shall see Him, vs. 2.

C. So how shall we then live? vs. 3.

- In hope!
- In holiness!