



January 30, 2007

“EMPOWERED BY HIS LOVE”

1 John 3:1 – 2; 4:17 - 19(NKJV)
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- Over the last several weeks, we have looked at ways that we, as believers, are empowered by God to do the extraordinary.
- Ways such as ...by His Name, ...by His Word, and ...by His Presence.
- In today's message, we would like to examine one of the most significant ways that we are empowered of God: **...by His Love.**
- I once read that of all the wonderful attributes of God, His love for us is His greatest.
- Love is the one attribute that not only describes what God does, but also who He is.
- John 3:16 tells us that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."
- 1 John 4:8 simply says that God is love.
- As we examine our scriptural text, we will discover that God's love not only redeems us but it also empowers us.
- In our text, John wanted the New Testament Christians who had suffered so much because of their faith to know that (1) God loved them, and (2) they were empowered because of His love.
- John tells them in 1 John 3:1-2 that it was the love of God that bestowed upon them the privilege of being called His children.
- What is so amazing about the love of God is that according to Romans 8:15, we were adopted as His children. God chose to love us.

- No one has earned or merit the love of God, for Romans 5:8 says that while we were yet sinners God commendeth His love toward us.
- God adopted us as His children when we were rebellious, ungrateful, sinful orphans. Now that's love!
- In verse two, John tells us that although we are blessed and highly favored to be called God's children, there is no comparison to what we will be when we meet Him in glory.
- All of this is possible because God loves us.
- John also talks about how we as believers are empowered by God's love.
- Chapter four, verses 17-19 lets us know that we are empowered by God's love to conquer fear.
- Fear is defined as anxiety caused by real or possible danger, pain, etc. It is also defined as apprehension or concern.
- Fear has been described as one of the most debilitating emotions that human beings have to deal with. Fear destroys relationships and lives.
- However, our text gives those of us who (by God's love) are considered "the children of God," hope concerning this enemy called fear.
- According to verse 18, there is no fear in love.
- Verse 18 goes on to declare, "Perfect love casteth out fear".
- Since the only perfect love the world has ever witnessed is the love of God, it is by God's love that we overcome all our fears.
- We are empowered!