

13 August 2017 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost.

Readings: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 67; 1 John 3:1-10; John 1:1-12.

Theme: *Child of God* – **1 John 3:1**, “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”



INTRO: Two views of the world: From bad evolving to better; From very good gone very bad, being recreated to be better than ever.



I. INNOCENCE LOST.

I love the way **Genesis 1 & 2** end: “God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good!” “The two of them, the Man and his Wife, were naked, but they felt no shame.” Heaven on earth! End of **Genesis 3**: “God expelled them from the Garden of Eden and sent them to work the ground, the same dirt out of which they’d been made. He threw them out of the garden and stationed angel-cherubim and a revolving sword of fire east of it, guarding the path to the Tree-of-Life.” **Eph. 2:1**, “**you were dead** in your transgressions and sins.” **Cf.** There’s no going back the way we came. No way to fix ourselves.



II. LOSS RECONCILED.

2 Corinthians 5:19, 21, “In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them... God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, **so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**”

Galatians 3:13, “Christ **redeemed** us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.”

Jesus came to reverse the curse!

So how do we go from death to life? From curse to blessing?



III. INNOCENCE RESTORED. A new life begins. A new identity is given.

John 3:6, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are **born again**.”

Ephesians 2:8-9, “It is **by grace** you have been saved, **through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

1 John 3:1, “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called **children of God! And that is what we are!**”

Romans 8:15-16, “The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption to sonship**. And by him we cry, ‘**Abba, Father**.’ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that **we are God’s children**.”

Galatians 4:6, “You can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as his own children because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, ‘**Papa! Father!**’”

2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **the new creation** has come: The old has gone, **the new is here!**”

2 Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; **test yourselves**. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?”

The test: Look to the cross. “What do you see?”

John 1:12, “To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right (*power*) to become **children of God**.”



CONCLUSION: 1 John 3:2-3, “Dear friends, **now we are children of God**, and what we will be has not yet been made known (MSG: *And that’s only the beginning*). But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.”