

What Shall We Be?

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: I John 3:2-3.
- B. The theme John is concerned with is maintaining righteousness.
- C. True love is righteous, courteous, and it satisfies justice.
- D. Christians act differently--they act according to the Lord.

II. Christians have the life of Jesus in them now.

- A. This is not always visible from the outside.
- B. Consequently, all of creation is standing on tiptoes anticipating the revelation of those who are children of God.

III. The day is coming when the sons of God will be manifest according to God's plan.

- A. We do not know what we will be just as creation does not know yet.
 - 1. The answers are certain, but the precise natures of the conditions are not.
 - 2. These things are indescribable according to our present circumstances.
 - 3. The light afflictions we face now are producing for us a weight of glory.
- B. What the believer knows with certainty: Jesus will appear, and the believer will be like Him when He appears.
 - 1. The text does not say that when Jesus appears we will become like Him.
 - 2. The extent that we will be like Jesus will be revealed when He comes.
 - 3. Everything about us that is not like Him will be burned. (II Corinthians 3)
 - 4. We are all becoming like Jesus right now.
 - 5. As we learn to accept God's circumstances as shaping us without complaint, we become like Him.
- C. The believer will also see Jesus as He is.
 - 1. We must be like something to understand it.
 - 2. No man can understand God except through the Spirit of God within.

D. The one who has the hope of seeing Jesus as He is purifies himself.

E. The believer purifies himself when he uses the means he has to do so--the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

Application questions:

1. How does this message bring you hope?

2. What does it mean to look like Jesus for the believer?

3. What is the motive for a Christian purifying himself? Explain.
