

IJOHN

WALK IN THE LIGHT

Matěj Cepl

October 27th



Off-topic question: chapter and verse?

(See what sort of love the Father has given to us: that we should be called God's children—and indeed we are! For this reason the world does not know us: Because it did not know him. Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that whenever it is revealed we will be like him because we will see him just as he is. And everyone who has this hope focused on him purifies himself, just as Jesus is pure).



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And now, little children, remain in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink away from him in shame when he comes back. If you know that he is righteous, you also know that everyone who practices righteousness has been fathered by him.





(See what sort of love the Father has given to us: that we should be called God's children—and indeed we are! For this reason the world does not know us: Because it did not know him. Dear friends, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been revealed. We know that whenever it is revealed we will be like him because we will see him just as he is. And everyone who has this hope focused on him **purifies himself**, just as Jesus is pure).



Who am I? The search for self often results in little more than a few clues that define us only in part. It's as if we are looking in a series of mirrors, some better than others, that reflect back glimpses of self but not the whole picture. The whole picture requires relationship with the master designer Himself.



In His great love for us, Jesus lays claim to who we truly are. He alone knows who the true self is; He alone can call forth that self. As we respond to His loving initiative in our lives, the most profound and authentic parts of our personhood come forth. The light of powerful love awakens us, and calls us out of the shadows of **lesser selves**. Through His reflection, we become aware of **who we truly are**.



Jesus alone possesses the knowledge of that true self; we see ourselves only in part. He sees us in full. Often our "self-portrait" is composed of damaging brush strokes applied by others or by our own distorted efforts to create a self. But in truth only the Creator of the original work can define it. One with the Father in the creation of each person, Jesus intends on reclaiming the true image He created in us (Jn 1:3).



Suppose a painter created a beautiful painting, one that bore his distinctive design and style. His pride in the work was matched only by his distress when vandals stole the painting and mistreated it until the original design was barely recognisable. Their fingerprints smudged it; layers of dust and grime obscured the true form and colours intended by the painter. He searched everywhere, going from gallery to loft to attic until he found his work. Then gently, but with unerring accuracy and skill, he restored the work, removing the layers of damage and enabling his

true design to emerge.





We can say that **bearing the image of God** is the most profound and authentic part of our humanity. And that image shines forth as we welcome Jesus into our lives. It is the true self that says "yes" to Jesus. And it is only through responding to Jesus and His loving initiative in our lives that we discover who and what that self truly is. As C.S. Lewis said: "Your real, new self (which is Christ's and also yours, and yours just because it is His) will not come as long as you are looking for it. It will come when you are looking for Him."



MINISTRY TIME



