


 A SIMPLE TOOL
FOR STUDYING THE BIBLE


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1 GOD — What does this text tell me about God?

2 MAN/MYSELF — What does this text tell me about myself/mankind?

3 COMMAND/SIN/EXAMPLE/PROMISE — In this text, is there a command to obey, a sin to avoid, an example to follow, or a promise to claim?

4 JESUS — The Bible is all about Jesus. He is the only one who has perfectly obeyed every command of God, he's the only one who has lived without sinning, he is the example of perfection, and he is the only person who deserves the promises given...and he did all of this in my place. How do I see that in this text?

5 FOLLOW — Because of Jesus' work in my place and the Spirit he has sent to dwell inside me...I can actually follow him. How can I now follow Jesus from this text in light of what he has accomplished?

 RECOMMENDED RESOURCES
FOR FURTHER STUDY

- The ESV Study Bible
- ESV Bible (free ESV Bible app for iOS and Android)
- The Faithlife Study Bible
(free download for iOS and Android)
- How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth
by Gordon Fee
- How to Read the Bible Book by Book: A Guided
Tour by Gordon Fee

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PRAY

READ THE TEXT - All of 1 John 3

STUDY THE TEXT - Just v. 1-3 of 1 John 3

1 GOD

- He is loving
- He is a father (v. 1)
- We are somehow his children (v. 1)
- He's going to make us like him (v. 2)
- He's going to complete something in me (v. 2)
- He is worthy to be hoped in (v. 3)
- He is pure (v. 3)
- Etc.

2 MAN

- God's love is given to me (v. 1) - this means I don't earn it.
- He calls me his child (v. 1) - if God calls me that, it means I am that.
- I am beloved. (v. 2)
- I'm not just his child, he is working something even more in me. (v. 2)
- What God is working in me will come to pass (v. 2)
- I can hope in God. (v. 3)
- I need to be purified as God is pure. (v. 3)
- Etc.

3 COMMAND/SIN/EXAMPLE/PROMISE

- P: God's love has been given (v. 1)
- P: I've been given the identity of child (v. 1)
- E: Live as a beloved child (v. 2)
- C: Hope in God (v. 3)
- C: Purify myself (v. 3)

4 JESUS

- God's love is shown to me through Jesus who died in my place.
- I don't deserve to be a child, but Jesus gave me his position and took my position at the cross.
- I don't always live perfectly...Jesus did in my place.
- I don't always hope in God, but Jesus perfectly obeyed the will and command of God in my place.
- I am made holy, purified, through Jesus' shed blood in my place. He took the wrath of God and gave me his perfection.

5 FOLLOW

- I can now follow Jesus and know that I have the full and undeserved love of God. I need look no further than the cross to see how much God loves me.
- Because Jesus has already finished the work in my place I can now imitate and obey God as a beloved child.
- Because of what God says about me and what Jesus has done for me, I have a hope that is sure and unshakable.

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