



We are children of God

HOW GREAT HIS LOVE

October 2017

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that's what we are!

1 John 3:1

A while ago a friend who was depressed told me she didn't want to live anymore because she felt unworthy. Over the next few days, I considered how I might help her realize she *is* worthy. If she could only find something that would give her life more meaning, I thought. But after some consideration I realized I was wrong. A person does not need to have a meaningful life to be worthy.

I believe that we're all—every one of us—worthy in God's sight. All of us who profess that Jesus took our sins on Him are children of God. Yes . . . *that's what we are!*

I love my troubled friend. If she could only realize how important she is to me, to the many people whose lives she touches, as well as to God. I care about her because she is

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real with me, seldom pretending to be what she isn't. She shares her pain openly so that I'm given the privilege—through God—to help her carry it. And when she starts to recover, not only is she blessed, but we're both blessed. What greater friendship can there be?

In the same way, when we share openly with God, as my friend does with me, offering him all we are, we are showing God that we trust him. We give ourselves to him and allow him to enfold us for who we are. What greater love can there be?

The meaningful things we find to do in our lives will make us happy and fulfilled, but they don't make us any more worthy than we already are.

The question we should ask ourselves is not "am I worthy?" The Bible says that we need ask, "am I loved?" And of course, the answer is "yes, we are."

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us!"

How blessed we are when we allow that love to soak into the depths of our soul. We are worthy and we are loved. And nothing can change that.

marja