



Family Perks

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Being a child in your parents' home comes with some special perks. It might not always feel like it, but it's true. Three of the biggest perks are love, identity, and belonging. Think about it like this: if a random neighbor kid came up to your door, knocked, and asked your dad for a snack and a glass of water, he'd probably say, "I can see your house from here. Go get a snack there!" But if *you* asked him, he'd probably say something different.

Why? Because he loves you like a father loves his children! Because you are his child, that is what you are! And because you are his child, you belong to him and his family. That's what makes what John says here so awesome and amazing. God the Father loves you so much that he calls *you* his children! Not just his children in name only, that is your identity, that is what you are! You don't belong to the world anymore (it doesn't even know or recognize you) you belong to him!

This sense of identity and belonging is only possible because of the love the Father poured out on us. Not because we were pure; not because we deserved it. No, it was because of love hopeless orphans could have hope. Jesus was pure when we aren't, and in his love for us, Jesus gives us his own purity as a blessing of being adopted into this family. When we didn't have an identity because of wrongdoing... now we have one. Our faith and hope are rooted in Jesus and that makes us children of God!

Do you know what special bonus comes with that? Someday, when Jesus returns, we will be like him. We will get to see him with our own eyes. Part of your identity and belonging in God's family is the future hope of sharing in his glory and purity forever in heaven. That's where the perks of love, identity, and belonging you have through faith in Jesus and being part of his family will never end.

Questions to Consider

- Fill in the blank: John says we are _____ of God!
- Which special word can we call God because we are his children?
- Discuss as a family what it means to be pure.
- What kind of blessings will we enjoy because we are children of God?
- John says, "what we will be has not yet been made known. But... we shall be like [Christ]." Is that comforting or confusing to you? Share why it is, too.
- In what ways is our hope *in Jesus* different from regular "hope"?