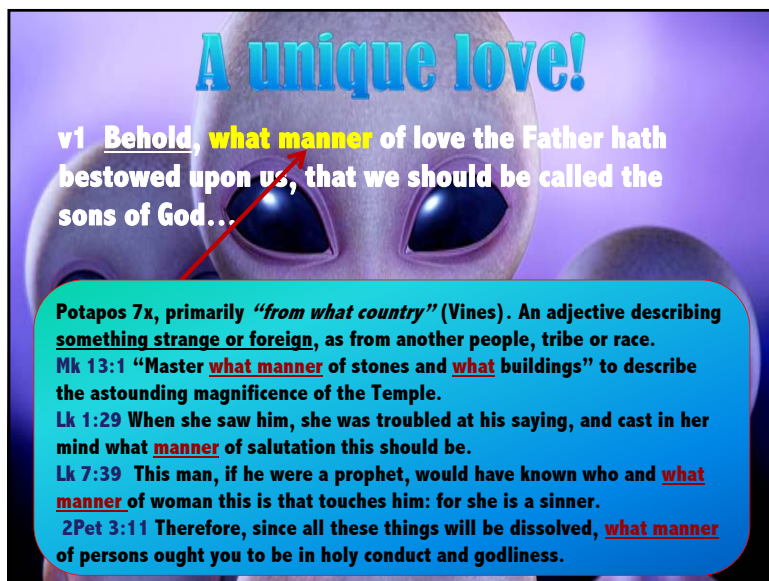




v1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

v2 Beloved, NOW are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

Yes, it's personal

Children of God... now

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are ASV

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. ESV

Consider this: The Father has given us his love. He loves us so much that we are actually called God's dear children. And that's what we are. GW

What marvellous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it - we're called children of God! That's who we really are. MSG

"We shall..." Absolutes

1John 3:2 Beloved, we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.



An absolute assurance that Christ will reveal himself to us, that we will recognise him and be fully transformed into his image.

Rev 22:3-5 There shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. and there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God gives them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.



A far reaching view into the future, beyond the millennium when God's purpose will unquestionably be perfectly completed.

"We shall..." Absolutes

1Thess 4:16-18 The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.



What a great comfort to know that bro/sis who have died **ABSOLUTELY SHALL** be raised, gathered with us and together we **SHALL** be with our Lord for all time.

"We shall..." Absolutes

*1Cor 15:49-54 We **shall** also bear the image of the heavenly... We **shall** not all sleep, but we **shall** all be changed... for the trumpet **shall** sound, and the dead **shall** be raised incorruptible, and we **shall** be changed, So when this corruptible **shall** have put on incorruption, and this mortal **shall** have put on immortality, then **shall** be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory*



The resurrection will **CERTAINLY** occur. Our aging frail bodies **ABSOLUTELY SHALL** receive a powerful, spirit motivated body which will never be weary or succumb to sin - just like his glorious resurrected body!

What we will be...

"Beloved, we are God's children now; what we **will** be has **not yet been** revealed (to the world v1). What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is" NRS

"...and we can't even **imagine what we will be like** when Christ returns." NLT

What **we are** does not **now appear to the world**; what we **shall be** does not yet **fully appear to us.**" (Stott)

"We shall be like him"

*1Cor 15:51,52 We shall not all sleep, but we **shall all be changed**, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye... For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and **we shall be changed**.*

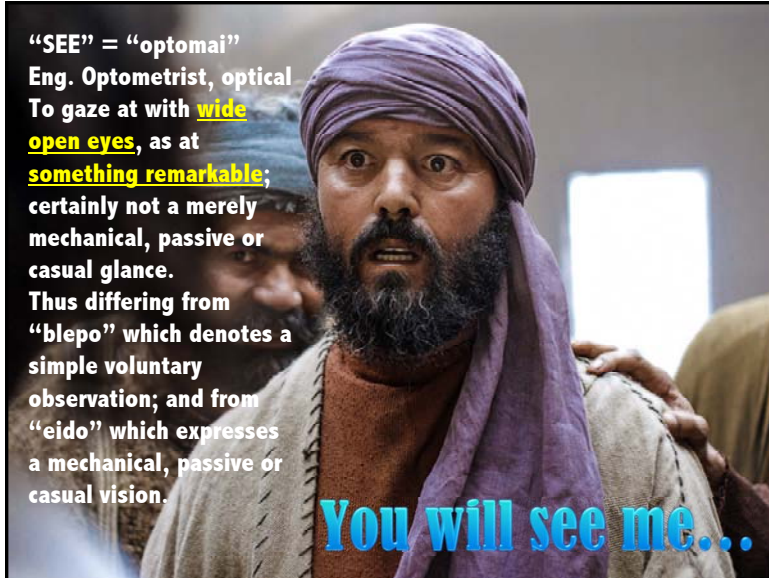
*Phil 3:20-21 He will change our vile body, that it may be **fashioned like unto his glorious body** (Wey "Who will transform this body of our humiliation until it resembles His own glorious body")*

*Ps 17:15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, **with thy likeness**.*



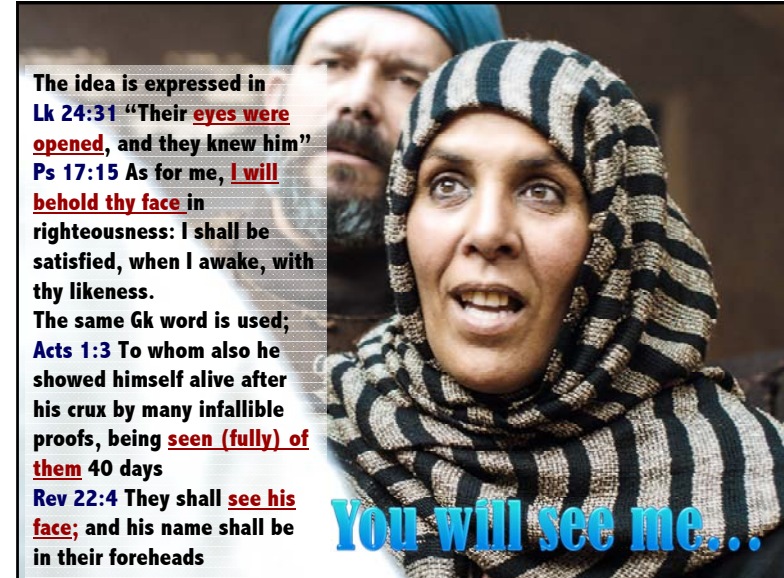
You will see me...

A little while, and **ye shall not see me**: and again, a little while, and **ye shall see me**, because I go to the Father. Then said some of his disciples among themselves, What is this that he saith unto us, A little while, and **ye shall not see me**: and again, a little while, and **ye shall see me**: and, Because I go to the Father? ... and ye now therefore have sorrow: but I **will see you again**, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man take from you. **In 16:16-22**



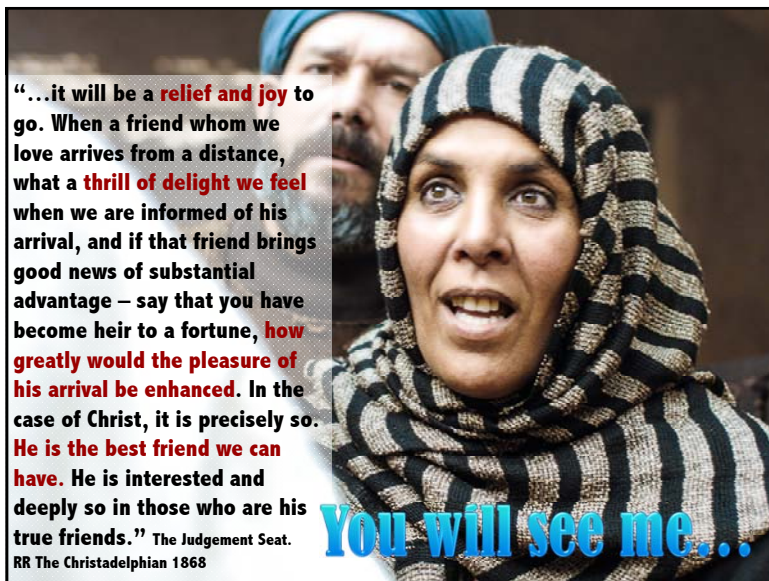
“SEE” = “optomai”
Eng. Optometrist, optical
To gaze at with wide open eyes, as at something remarkable; certainly not a merely mechanical, passive or casual glance. Thus differing from “blepo” which denotes a simple voluntary observation; and from “eido” which expresses a mechanical, passive or casual vision.

You will see me...



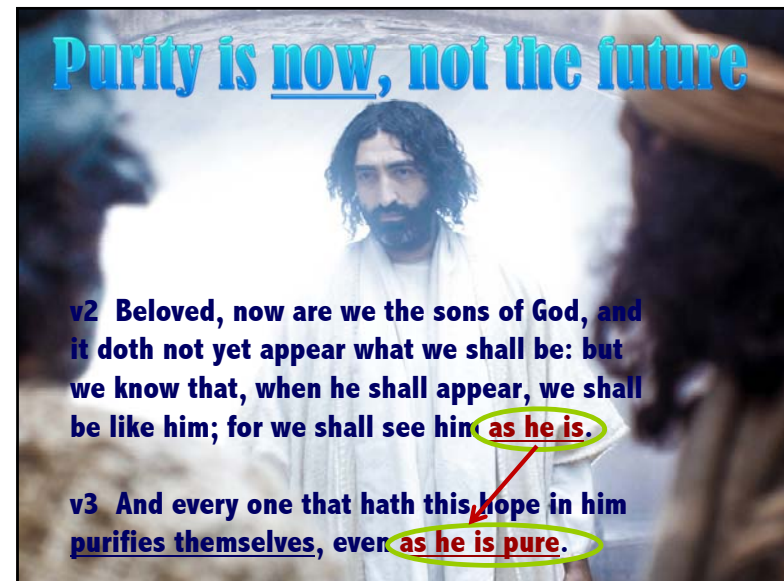
The idea is expressed in
Lk 24:31 “Their eyes were opened, and they knew him”
Ps 17:15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.
The same Gk word is used;
Acts 1:3 To whom also he showed himself alive after his crux by many infallible proofs, being seen (fully) of them 40 days
Rev 22:4 They shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads

You will see me...



“...it will be a relief and joy to go. When a friend whom we love arrives from a distance, what a thrill of delight we feel when we are informed of his arrival, and if that friend brings good news of substantial advantage – say that you have become heir to a fortune, how greatly would the pleasure of his arrival be enhanced. In the case of Christ, it is precisely so. He is the best friend we can have. He is interested and deeply so in those who are his true friends.” The Judgement Seat. RR The Christadelphian 1868

You will see me...

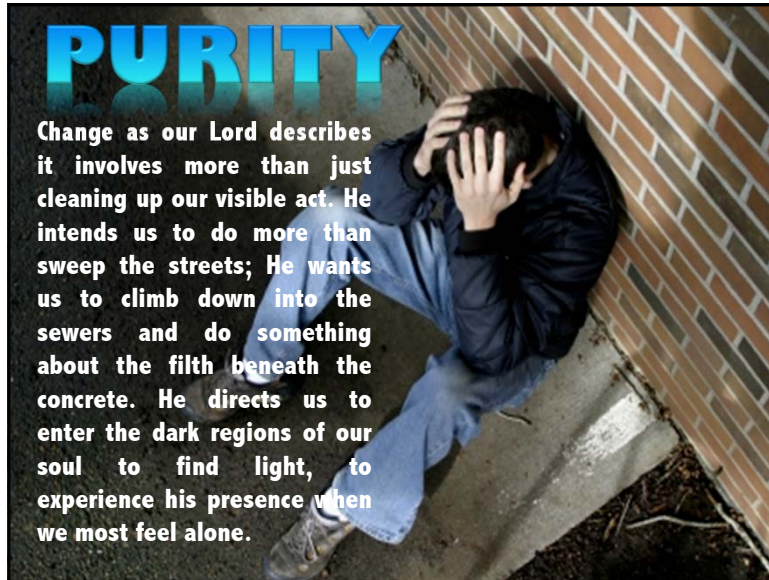


Purity is now, not the future

v2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

v3 And every one that hath this hope in him purifies themselves, even as he is pure.

PURITY



Change as our Lord describes it involves more than just cleaning up our visible act. He intends us to do more than sweep the streets; He wants us to climb down into the sewers and do something about the filth beneath the concrete. He directs us to enter the dark regions of our soul to find light, to experience his presence when we most feel alone.

Not pretenders... Not perfect...



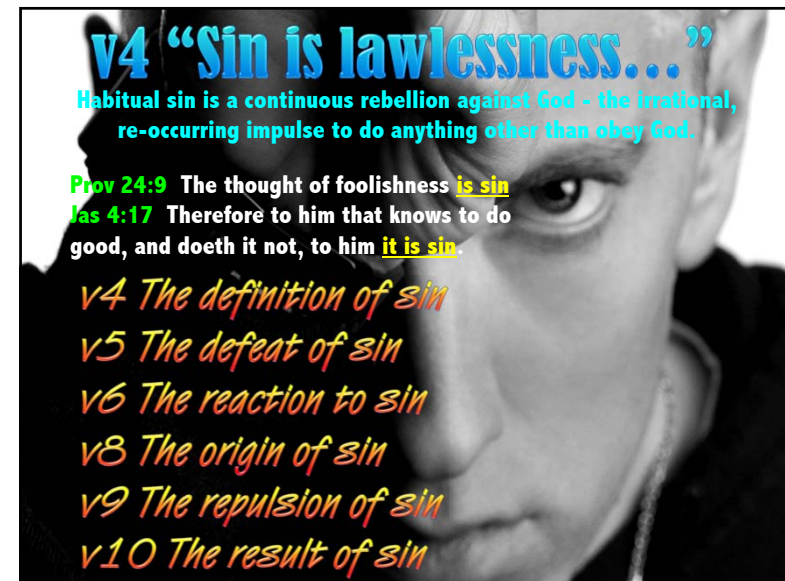
Biblical change never requires us to pretend that things are better than they are. Christ wants us to face reality as it is, including all the fears, hurts, resentments and self protective motives we work hard to keep out of sight, and to emerge as changed people. **Not pretenders. Not perfect. But more able to deeply love because we are more honest and more aware of His love.** Inside Out. Pg 36,46 Looking beneath the surface of Life.



"Pardon is not a license to go on just the same as before... It is one thing to blunder through ignorance or inexperience; it is quite another to blunder through flicking with temptation unheedingly. Nobody can be blasé about sin."

(Genius of Discipleship Pg 25)

v4 "Sin is lawlessness..."

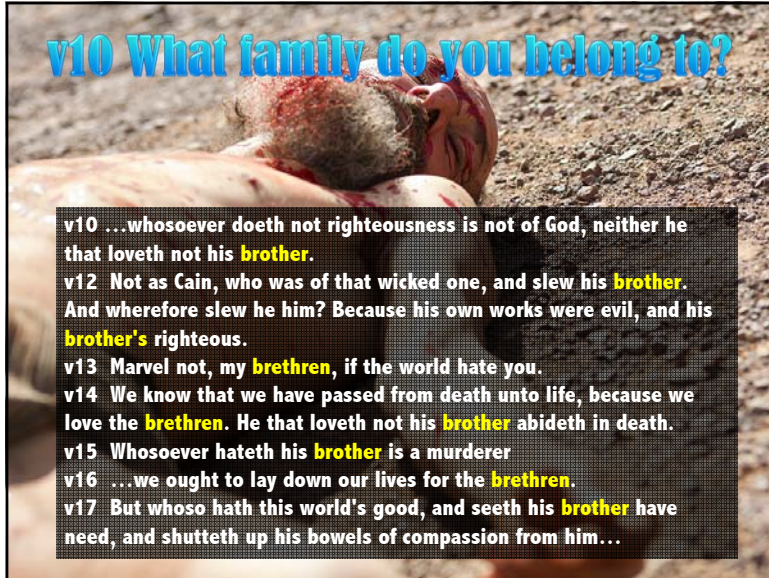


Habitual sin is a continuous rebellion against God - the irrational, re-occurring impulse to do anything other than obey God.

Prov 24:9 The thought of foolishness is sin
Jas 4:17 Therefore to him that knows to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

- v4 The definition of sin
- v5 The defeat of sin
- v6 The reaction to sin
- v8 The origin of sin
- v9 The repulsion of sin
- v10 The result of sin

v10 What family do you belong to?



v10 ...whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his **brother**.
 v12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his **brother**. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his **brother's** righteous.
 v13 Marvel not, my **brethren**, if the world hate you.
 v14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the **brethren**. He that loveth not his **brother** abideth in death.
 v15 Whosoever hateth his **brother** is a murderer
 v16 ...we ought to lay down our lives for the **brethren**.
 v17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his **brother** have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him...



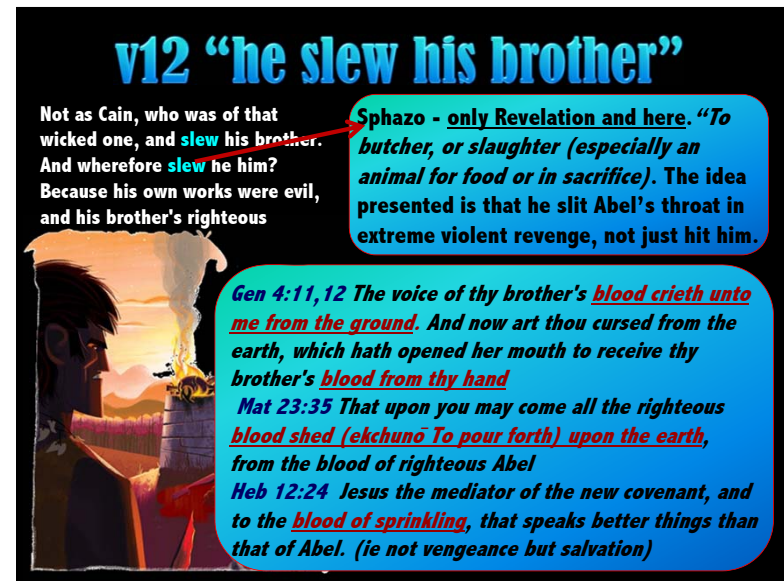
MURDERER!

4 Levels of response

- 1/ v11-12 Murder**
- 2/ v13-15 Hatred**
- 3/ v16-17 Indifference**
- 4/ v18-24 Compassion**

So loving in "deed & truth" results in
v19-20 ASSURANCE OF HEART
v21-22 ANSWERED PRAYER
v23-24 ABIDING LOVE

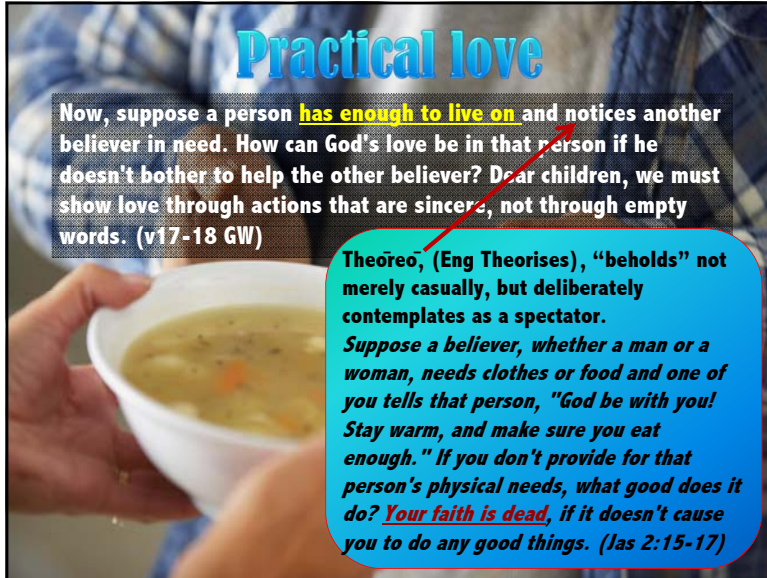
v12 "he slew his brother"



Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and **slew** his brother. And wherefore **slew** he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous

Sphazo - only Revelation and here. "To butcher, or slaughter (especially an animal for food or in sacrifice). The idea presented is that he slit Abel's throat in extreme violent revenge, not just hit him."

Gen 4:11,12 The voice of thy brother's **blood crieth unto me from the ground**. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's **blood from thy hand**
Mat 23:35 That upon you may come all the righteous **blood shed (ekchuno To pour forth) upon the earth**, from the blood of righteous Abel
Heb 12:24 Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the **blood of sprinkling**, that speaks better things than that of Abel. (ie not vengeance but salvation)



Practical love

Now, suppose a person **has enough to live on** and notices another believer in need. How can God's love be in that person if he doesn't bother to help the other believer? Dear children, we must show love through actions that are sincere, not through empty words. (v17-18 GW)

Theōreō, (Eng Theorises), "beholds" not merely casually, but deliberately contemplates as a spectator.

*Suppose a believer, whether a man or a woman, needs clothes or food and one of you tells that person, "God be with you! Stay warm, and make sure you eat enough." If you don't provide for that person's physical needs, what good does it do? **Your faith is dead**, if it doesn't cause you to do any good things. (Jas 2:15-17)*

v23 "love one another"

This is an important theme in 1 John, introduced in 3:11,23 and enhanced in 4:7,11,12. Love should not just be ethereal words but practical help...

Be prepared to serve - Jn 13:14 "you also ought to wash one another's feet."

Respect one another - Rom 12:10 Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Try to develop unity - Rom 12:16 Be of the same mind one toward another

Do not judge one another unfairly - Rom 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more

Be forgiving to one another - Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another

v23 "love one another"

Be courageous enough to speak out - Rom 15:14 able also to admonish one another.

Nurture & teach - Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another

Edify, build up one another - 1Thess 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another

Help to lift the weight off another's shoulders - Gal 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Be open and honest with each other - Jam 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be

Be generous and hospitable - 1Pet 4:9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

So what will you do? Summary

Do we "*behold*" how special and unique God's love is? Really?

We are the children of God **NOW** - can people see that?

We shall be like him. John is unequivocally telling us that we can confidently assure ourselves that change is coming! **That's an astounding absolute! Believe it. Embrace it. Rejoice in it!**

If it is truly our hope we will begin to purify our lives, that's the litmus test of who we really want to become.

Sin destroys relationships with God and with bro/sis. Get rid of grudges, hateful thoughts and especially indifference.

Practical love restores, repairs, rebuilds relationships. Are we nourishing those friendships we want to share for eternity?

Light. Love. Life

"I write these things unto you... so that you might know you have eternal life" 1 John 5:13