

Since Jesus loves us as much as His Father loved Him, I like to meditate on one event that summarizes their special relationship, the baptism of Jesus.

“When Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:16–17)

Another translation renders it a little differently, “This is my dearly loved Son, Who brings Me great joy.”

As I think about being loved just as Jesus was loved, I see three aspects that translate to my relationship with God. I belong to God, for He says, **MY** beloved Son. I am loved for Jesus is called a **BELOVED** Son. When the Father sees His Son, He is filled with **GREAT JOY**. Since we are forgiven and clothed in Christ, we too a beloved, well-pleasing adopted children on God.

MY

I belong to God. Because I have asked and believed for Jesus to forgive my sins and declared Him to be my Lord, I have been adopted into the family of God. I am a child of God because of His grace.

“To all who did receive Hm, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12–13)

“We have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.” (Romans 8:15–17)

DEARLY LOVED or BELOVED, children

“God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

“God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved.” (Ephesians 2:4–5)

“This is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:10)

GREAT JOY or WELL PLEASED

“The LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation.” (Psalm 149:4)

“As for the saints who are in the earth, they are the majestic ones in whom is all My delight.” (Psalm 16:3)

“The LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued My faithfulness to you.” (Jeremiah 31:3)

FORGIVEN

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, Who forgives all your iniquity, Who heals all your diseases. ... As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.” (Psalm 103:2–3, 11–12)

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

CLOTHED

“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.” (Isaiah 61:10)

“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

There are many more verses that I am sure you could add to each of these topics, and I hope you will. I studied for years and searched the Scriptures to transform my own thinking to line up with God’s Word. Truly we shall each know the truth, which shall set us free to love Him and appreciate Him in new and wondrous ways.