

Sermon Growth Guide

July 18, 2021

What Great Love - Love Makes a Difference

1 John 3:1-10

Key Verse: 1 John 3:1a “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

Big Idea: God’s love makes a difference, transforming us into our Christ-like selves.



Foundations

Last week we came across the theme of justification. Justification means that you are “justified” before the Father, fully and forever forgiven by trusting solely in Jesus. This week, we come across the word sanctification. Now that you trust Jesus, you begin to feel His love for you more and more. God’s love makes a difference in your life, transforming you more and more into the very likeness of Christ!

Pastor Tim offers the analogy of a flower to help us understand what sanctification is like. It’s hard to watch a flower grow by just staring at the flower. Yet, with the right soil, sunlight and water, flowers grow and bloom into their intended purpose. For the believer, the soil is biblical community, the sunlight is the presence of God, and the water is our personal pursuit of the Living Christ. Before long, we can look back on the last several years of our lives and exclaim, “Hey! I’m more like Jesus today than I was 10 years ago. Praise God!”

The world offers numbness to the real matters of your heart, but God offers transformation, sanctification. Every brother or sister walking life with you desires to see you grow. You are not alone in this! Pray that God will guide and guard your Life Group, growing you each this week by God’s Great Love into an even purer reflection of the beloved Son.

Understanding God’s Word

Our text opens with one of the greatest statements in all of Scripture, 1 John 3:1. Take time to memorize it as a group.

Verse two goes even deeper in revealing where we are headed. What kind of hope does your future give you for today?

Verse three calls believers to “purify themselves.” Discuss what this means and your experience with this call. Conclude this time by linking verses one through three together and talking about the doctrine of sanctification.

Applying God’s Word

Verse one gives the Christian her identity. Verse two provides the believer with his purpose. And verse three offers practical application. Host a discussion that links verses one to three together and identify a specific area of your life that you would like to grow in by God’s grace and power.

Witnessing God’s Word

Pastor Tim concludes his message this week by calling us to love those around us by seeing how the great love of God can reach in and completely change someone for the better. Identify and pray for those that God is inviting you to extend God’s transformative love to this week.