

SERIES: LESSONS ON THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN US

Lesson #7: “Love Gives New Birth”

1 John 2:28-3:10

Announcements and opening prayer.



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** If you could fix one thing about yourself, what would it be?

Transition: The really great news is that we are not just getting one thing in our lives fixed; we are getting an extreme makeover when Christ returns! If we have allowed the love of God to lead us to a new birth in Christ, we have an incredible future continually approaching. We should be getting excited as the time of our Lord’s coming draws near.

The Bottom Line: Knowledge of the Truth leads us to a new birth. The changes begin taking place when we accept Christ as our Lord. (*Draw a happy face on the board and ask, “Is this a picture of your spirit? Is this what people see on a daily basis?”*)

LESSON PLAN



Denotes “Apply”

Read 1 John 2:28-29

1. Verses 28 and 29 are like a bridge between thoughts. What has John been talking about and warning about up to this point?

Our faith calls for us to focus on walking in the light of Christ’s Word to have an intimate fellowship with Jesus. He warns us not to love the world or the things in it sacrificially because they will pass away forever. He warns us that the anti-Christ powers of influence were there and would keep coming, turning people against the Truth that Jesus is the only way to God, the only Messiah.

2. What is the bridge John has build in verses 28 and 29? What point is John making?

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- 🕒 On a scale of 1 (I am terrified of that day) to 10 (I'm so excited I could scream), how would you rate your anticipation of the day you stand before Jesus?

John mentions God's promise for the remission of sin is not to be used as an excuse to keep sinning. It is to be a comfort for us when we OCCASSIONALLY fall into sin. Continuing in Christ is the source of our confidence to stand before Jesus and even an excitement at the thought of His certain return to judge the living and the dead.

- 🕒 What are you personally doing to continue in Jesus?

Background: In his commentary on 1 John, Simon Kistemaker (pronounced *kista-mawker*) makes a great observation. At the end of the Parable of the Unjust Judge, recorded in Luke 18, Jesus abruptly speaks about Himself when He asks His followers, "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" (v. 8). This question seems to be entirely out of place at the conclusion of the parable. However, the preceding context of Luke 17:20-37 teaches the return of Jesus. When Jesus appears at His coming will He find the believers faithful to their calling? Will they be doing that which is just? Christ's return is mentioned 318 times in the 260 chapters of the New Testament. John links the coming of Christ with doing that which the Word of God tells us is right. The believer is not passively waiting for Jesus to return but is actively promoting God's kingdom on earth, the kingdom of righteousness. Our prayer life should include the prayer that Jesus finds a great righteousness all across the earth as the church is truly being Jesus' body.



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table: *(Be sure to allow plenty of time for this exercise)* In what ways is the church truly being Jesus' body right now? What grade would you give us? In what ways are we failing to continue in being Jesus' body?



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Read 1 John 3:1-3

3. How does John describe the great love the Father has lavished on us?
4. How does that happen?
5. Why doesn't everyone on earth understand the Christian faith and walk?
6. How can we reach the world if the people without Christ cannot understand?
6. When will we be fully like Jesus?

Read 1 John 3:4-10

7. All sin is lawlessness. It makes us outlaws. What are some of the ways people became outlaws in the old west?
8. What hope is there for outlaws?

Jesus appeared to forgive and to teach the outlaw how to be holy. We are the messengers of that truth. That is why the church is so critical. Look at the outlaws on the news here in Colorado Springs every night! We have a big job to do. Pikes Peak Christian Church's effectiveness and ministry is crucial to the hope of a lot of people!

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9. What does God tell us through John we can recognize as the sign that we are in Christ, in a saved relationship?

We do not keep on sinning. By that God means that we choose to live continually with choices that are contrary to the Word of God. It represents a lifestyle choice of ignoring the Word of God continually. That is dangerous. In the eyes of God, that lifestyle proves someone has never really seen or known Jesus as Lord, even if they claim to be Christian. God alone knows who they are, but this is given as a stern warning.

10. Would someone sum up or paraphrase verses 7-10?

11. What final warning is given concerning our responsibility to our brother?

We must love him or we are not a child of God. It is important that we notice that brotherly love is not an option. I am my brother's keeper. I cannot live a life of hate or indifference. The word God used was the AGAPE, sacrificial and undeserved Love that is a choice. We give love to everyone who will receive it as God so loved the world that He gave His only Son for all who will believe in Him.



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: “But let all who take refuge in You be glad; let them sing for joy. Spread Your protection over them, that those who love Your name may rejoice in You” (Psalm 5:11).