

Week Nine: A Review

OPENING PRAYER

READ | *1 John 5:18-20*

¹⁸We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. ¹⁹We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. ²⁰We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

REVIEW / APPLY

1. In verses 18-20, John begins to close the book with a number of “we know” statements... “so that we may know him who is true” (v.20). These are intended to reinforce John’s message, and encourage us as truths and promises that hinge upon, and are fulfilled in, Christ. Why do these matter? How are they compelling? Which do you find the most encouraging and why?
2. The heart of the gospel of Scripture is captured in 1 John: God is love and God loves you. All of biblical Christianity stems from this reality. It’s why God created the universe, why God sent Jesus on our behalf, why we are enabled to trust in Jesus and believe, and why God is making all things new. You could say, then, that Christian faith is essentially *being loved by love Himself*. Why/how does this have power to transform a person’s life (e.g. identity, priorities, fears, desires, character)? How is it transforming your life (or how do you desire it to be transforming)?
3. John writes, ‘This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for those around us’ (1 Jn 3:16). Why is the historic Christian gospel built on this kind of love? How, then, does this kind of sacrificial love have the power to change a life, change a community, change a county, change the world? In other words, what about it is so radical and so catalytic?
4. Jesus *gave his life* as a ransom for many, but he *spent his life* investing in the lives of a few, his 12 closest friends, the disciples (Matthew 10:2; 20:28). Through his death and resurrection Jesus redeemed the world, and through his disciples he changed the world. How might Jesus’ ministry philosophy--investing in a few to change many--be a model for his followers? How might you pursue investing in, or being invested in by, others?¹

CLOSING PRAYER

Prayer suggestions: > That the Holy Spirit would enable us more and more to be assured that we truly belong to God, who has sent his Son that we might become his; that from this we would be increasingly secure and confident in His love for us; that the truths of the gospel of Jesus would become reality in our lives and draw us into greater intimacy with our Savior, who was and is and is to come...



¹ If you’re in a season of life when you may legitimately not have the capacity to invest in others as you’d like, but, rather, would be greatly encouraged by being invested in by another person, who might you speak with about this? Talk to someone about coming alongside you in this season, whether you’re exhausted, suffering, isolated or simply in need of encouragement and friendship. Inviting others into our frailty and weariness can lead to our greatest experiences of renewal and wholeness.