

Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, or individuals

“True Spirituality”

1 John 1

May 17-18, 2014

For Starters

1. What did you hear in this week’s message that raised a question or caught your attention?
How do people define spirituality today?
2. Who is the most spiritual person you have ever known? What made you think of them?
3. What do you think about this quote from Michael Horton? “True spirituality may be personal, but it’s not private. It is wildly, unashamedly, thoroughly public.”

Digging In

1. Read through 1 John 1 out loud. Imagine being in one of the churches that heard it for the first time—what sticks out as you hear it again?
2. What was John’s stated purpose of 1 John 5:13? Compare it with the purpose for his gospel John 20:31.
3. What does John tell us about Jesus in vv 1-4? How does it compare to John 1:1-14 and John 17:3? In what ways does John make it clear Jesus is both human and divine?
4. What do we lose if Jesus was just divine (not human)? cf 1 John 3:5-8; 4:9-10.
5. Marc mentioned this week that God’s revelation precedes relationships. What relationships are pointed out in vv 3-4 and what results from those relationships?
6. Spirituality is not about a checklist according to John, it’s about loving relationships with God. If we are “walking with God” (i.e. truly spiritual), what are the marks from verses 5-10?

Bringing it Home

True spirituality begins with faith in the true God and His Son Jesus Christ, the one who is both fully God and fully man. True spirituality is about a relationship with God, not about doing rituals for God. True faith begins with humility, where we understand that we are sinners and need a Savior and turn to Him alone for forgiveness.

1. What do we believe about Jesus? Do you accept John’s conclusion that God’s son is fully God?
2. How do you describe your relationship with God right now? Is it dry, non-existent, or it external (more about rituals than a relationship)? What would be different this week if you walked with God?
3. Is there any area in your life that fits the phrase in v 6 “walking in darkness”? What is the lie you are believing and bring that to God in confession v 9?

Digging Deeper

Meditate and memorize Phil 3:8-12. Ask God to grow your love for Him.

Belonging to a small group is a great way to grow spiritually. If you would like to join a group or get more information, contact Melanie at myeazel@doorcreekchurch.org.