

Sermon Discussion Guide for small groups, families, or individuals

"In Him"

1 John 2:1-11

May 24-25, 2014

For Starters

1. Many people say, "I'm spiritual, but not religious". What do you think they mean by this? What does it say about our current culture?
2. Was there something you heard in this week's message that raised a question or caught your attention?

Digging In

1. Why does John refer to those he is writing to as "my dear children" in John 2:1?
2. What is John communicating to his church when he reminds them of their advocate, Jesus Christ the Righteous One? What do these two opening verses remind his people of?
3. When John writes that the atoning sacrifice of Jesus covers the sins of the entire world in 1 John 2:2, what does he mean? And why is this good news?
4. In 1 John 2:3-4, John explicitly states how we can be sure we know God. How can we know God? How can we know with certainty that we know God?
5. The command in 1 John 2:6 is to live like Jesus lived. What are your initial reactions to this verse? How can you possibly live as Jesus lived?
6. 1 John 2:9-11 speaks to those inside the church and challenges them to truly love one another deeply. Why is John (and Jesus) so passionate about unity within the church? How can the church be a light in the darkness according to 1 John 2:1-11?

Bringing it Home

1. Does your life look like the life of Jesus? How can you imitate Jesus more fully?
2. Are you secure in your union with Christ? Do you believe that you are "in Him"? How does believing that truth drive your behavior?
3. Why is the church often not a place of unity and mutual love? How can the church grow in relational unity and mutual love?
4. Would you honestly say you are in a living, vibrant, Spirit-filled relationship with God right now? If not, what needs to happen to experience that type of relationship?

Digging Deeper

In Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

What is Jesus saying here? And how does it relate to the 1 John 2:1-11?