

Sermon Growth Guide

July 11, 2021

What Great Love - Love Beats Sin

1 John 1:1-10

Key Verse: 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Big Idea: We are forgiven through faith-filled confession.



Foundations

What did the apostle John know about the love of God? Perhaps we could do no better than to quote John himself: “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1)

Today we enter into a new five-week series that focuses our attention on the great love of God by looking at John’s first epistle. Pastor Tim writes that “the love of God is not just a feeling. It is a power that transforms us! God pours out His love over us like sunlight that makes us grow and flower.”

Tim’s first sermon in this series centers around the sure knowledge that in Christ we can confess our sin to our faithful and fully forgiving Father God. Instead of being met with condemnation, we are met with the overwhelming force of God’s love. God’s love includes Jesus’ atoning death, by which we are cleansed from all unrighteousness when we place our trust in God alone.

It isn’t easy to let go of the so-called wisdom of the world that offers all kinds of fictitious alternatives, but through cultivating a heart of contrition before God we learn to walk as His beloved children. 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

The word “fellowship” appears in our text four times throughout verses 3, 6 and 7. Hold a rich discussion on what we learn here about Christian fellowship with God and one another.

Verse nine is our central verse today. In many ways, the gospel can be summed up in this verse. Discuss what 1 John 1:9 means to you now that you’ve heard Tim preach on it, as well as what this verse has meant to you over the years.

Applying God’s Word

We are forgiven through faith-filled confession. Is there anything in your life that you need to confess to God? Is there anything you need to confess to a party that you have wronged? Are you walking in biblical accountability? Pray for and encourage one another to live out faith-filled confession.

Witnessing God’s Word

Integrity matters. We are called to walk in the light (reread verses 5–8). You may recall these words from Brennan Manning: “The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and walk out the door and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.” Encourage and pray for one another, that your lifestyle witness of Christ would be a clear witness to all around you.