



What's coming up in middle school @NCC:

- **Jump 6, Monday, February 10 • Made** This week we're in the 'Made' series talking about how we are like clay and that we are moldable. Bring a friend and some change for checkers! 6:30-8:00pm in Lower Court.
- **Vertical Edge, Tuesday, February 11 • Core Group Olympics** Join us on campus as the Core Groups engage in competitions to win the coveted Annual Core Group Supremacy Trophy! Pastor Dan will be teaching on 1 Peter 2:11, "You're an Alien!" Make sure to bring your friends and some change because checkers will be open! 7:00-9:00pm in West Court.



february 8/9 lesson

Series: 1 John

Lesson: Journey through 1 John ch. 4

Scripture: 1 John 4 & various

A STUDY OF FIRST JOHN



Chew Time

- Read Luke 11:33-12:12

A. Read 1 John 4:1-3

- † **1 John 4:2 (NLT)** *This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God.*
- † **1 John 4:2 (ESV)** *By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that _____ that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,*

1. John is addressing false teachers here who were claiming that Jesus did not have an actual human body. Complete the True or False quiz of completely random factoids.

- Reindeer like to eat bananas __ True __ False
- It takes a lobster approximately seven years to grow to be one pound __ True __ False
- A fossil, believed to be of a unicorn was discovered in Scotland around 1950 __ True __ False
- Burps are contagious __ True __ False
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear __ True __ False
- Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand __ True __ False
- Eating cupcakes burns calories __ True __ False
- The oldest person to ever live was a cyborg Japanese woman who lived to be 160 years old __ True __ False
- Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying __ True __ False
- Cat's urine glows under a blacklight. __ True __ False
- Toilet water is usually mint flavored __ True __ False
- A hippo can open its mouth wide enough to fit a 4 foot tall child inside __ True __ False

Back to it

2. What does the word “_____” mean here? It does not mean merely mouthing the words, “*I know I am a sinner.*” For example, if you are arguing with your brother/sister & your parents make you say you’re “sorry”, this doesn’t necessarily mean that you are.

Your confession must be sincere. It must come from the heart. It must be more than mere words. There has to be a corrected heart attitude. Then forgiveness and reconciliation can happen.

So John is saying here that a sincere, genuine confession of Christ is evidence of the Spirit’s work in your life.

2 signs of a genuine faith

- ① One is by producing the _____.
- ② One is by producing a genuine _____ about Jesus Christ.

† **1 John 4:4** *But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is _____ than the spirit who lives in the world.*

1. Do not take personal credit for your personal re-birth as a _____. Give credit to the Spirit who is in you, and give God the glory.
2. When you are threatened by any deception of the evil one—any temptation, or discouragement, or anxiety, or fear—remind yourself that “*the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who is in the world.*” Almighty God _____ within you. Trust him.

B. Read 1 John 4:7-13

† **1 John 4:7-8** ⁷ Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Question: Do you know people who believe in God, but don't seem to express much love, or even "_____ " for others?

Fact: God speaks by the Holy Spirit, through His Word, into our lives. Scripture passages such as this are meant to _____, _____ & _____ believers in their walk with Christ.



Big Question:

When the world looks at the church, do they see a love that can only be explained by the supernatural work of God? That is a big QUESTION for our life together. There must be such a love if this text is to make any sense.

5 Reasons why God's LOVE is so important & what it means for us:

① God Is Love

† **1 John 4:16** We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love _____ in God, and God _____ in them.



God is so absolute, so perfect, so complete, so full, so inexhaustibly resourceful, so joyful, that he is by nature a Giver, a Worker for others, a Helper, a Protector. What it means to be God is to be full enough always to overflow. The implications of this for the way we live are big.

② Loving Each Other Is Like Loving God

One time a lawyer asked Jesus (**Matthew 22:36**), “³⁶ **Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?**”

In other words, tell us what is the most important _____ of all of the Old Testament commandments? Jesus answered,

Matthew 22:37-38 ³⁷ **Jesus replied,** “*You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.*” ³⁸ **This is the first and greatest commandment.**”

But then the lawyer got more than he bargained for. Jesus didn't stop. He said

Matthew 22:39 *A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.*

Jesus said loving each other is like loving God. The two commandments are inseparable.

3 Love _____ God's Requirements

Paul says in:

Romans 13:9-10⁹ For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself."¹⁰ Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.



The point here is that love between humans is so crucial that Paul says, when it really happens, it is the fulfilling of all God's teachings.

4 Faith _____ Itself Through Love

Galatians 5:6 For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love.

Without love faith is dead. This is what James meant when he wrote

James 2:17 So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

So the works of love are the evidence of living faith. Without them a church is dead and a heart is dead. Here's the way John put it in

1 John 3:14 If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead.

5 Love for Each Other Is the _____ of Christianity

Jesus: John 13:34-35³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

■ In the book of Acts Luke is eager to show that one of the first effects of salvation and community life in Christ is practical, costly care for one another.

† **Acts 2:45** They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

In other words, meeting needs in the church was more important than personal possession.

C. **1 John 4:18** Such love has no fear, because perfect love _____ all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

The word "fear" is translated from the word *phobia*. How good is your knowledge of phobias? Match up the words on the left with the descriptions:

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|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| _____ Fear of heights | A. Acrophobia |
| _____ Fear of snakes | B. Xenophobia |
| _____ Fear of insects | C. Astraphobia |
| _____ Fear of thunder and lightning | D. Bibliophobia |
| _____ Ear of injections | E. Cynophobia |
| _____ Fear of books | F. Entomophobia |
| _____ Fear of strangers & foreigners | G. Hydrophobia |
| _____ Fear of dogs | H. Mysophobia |
| _____ Fear of water | I. Ophidiophobia |
| _____ Fear of dirt & germs | J. Trypanophobia |