

Revealing The Condition Of Our Heart

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1 John 3:7-20; 4:7-12

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Guest Speaker: Pastoral Candidate Kirk Gambrell



Mr. Gambrell currently serves as the Director of Staff Ministries and the LIFT Associate Director at Camp-of-the-Woods, a Christian resort and retreat center serving over 16,000 guests each year in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains of New York. Kirk serves as the staff pastor to the more than 300 staff each summer. During the fall and spring semesters he teaches in the LIFT discipleship program. LIFT stands for Leaders in Further Training. LIFT is a semester long discipleship program that includes college level Bible classes, service at Camp-of-the-Woods, a two week foreign missions trip, intense outdoor adventures, and one-on-one discipleship.

Kirk holds a Th.M. in pastoral ministries from Dallas Theological Seminary. Prior to moving to New York, he served in church ministry for eight years as a Family Pastor and before that as a Children's Pastor. Kirk and his wife, Laura, met while attending Texas A&M University. Laura has served alongside Kirk in each of his ministry positions, teaching women's Bible study, leading children's worship, and currently mentoring young women in LIFT. Kirk and Laura have been married for 15 years and have two boys, Spencer (13) and Sean (11). They enjoy spending time in the outdoors, playing Settlers of Catan, and watching Aggie football.



① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read 1 John 3:7-20 and 4:7-12

⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

⁸ The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

¹¹ For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

¹² Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.

Read 1 John 4:7-12

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

¹³ Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.

¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

¹⁵ Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

¹⁶ 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 our brothers and sisters.

¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence:

²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. a. What is the message referred to in verse 11?

b. To whom and when was this message given?
2. Read Genesis 4:1-12, then compare and contrast the offerings of Cain and Abel and God's response to each.
3. What rhetorical question and warning does God give to Cain?
4. a. According to 1 John 3:12, why did Cain murder Abel?

b. Why do you think that Cain murdered Abel?
5. What do you learn from Cain's example?
6. Why might the world hate believers? What encouragement does Matthew 5:11-12 provide?

7. How do we receive salvation?

8. What is the relationship between loving our brother and salvation?

9. Can a murderer receive eternal life?

10. According to verse 16, what is love?

11. What does it mean to lay down your life for your brother?

12. What sacrifices are you making in order to show love to your brothers?

13. What actions are you taking to meet the material needs of others?

14. What is the difference between loving with words or tongue and with actions and truth? Provide specific examples of how this applies to your life.

15. What do your actions reflect about the condition of your heart?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes
