



Light for Today, Love for Forever | 1 John:1-10

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By Pastor Tim Ghali

Group Leader Notes

Today, we begin our new series, *Just Love: Living out the Vision of 1 John*. John was *the disciple whom Jesus loved*, the only apostle who witnessed the crucifixion, the author of one of the gospels, and the book of Revelation.

John is writing at a tumultuous time when churches are struggling in sin, there is major conflict, and they are being seduced by false teachings. In this letter, John is imagining a future where earthly powers are subject to divine authority and where grace, peace, and the love of Jesus truly reign.

Question: What is the light of Jesus?

Bottom Line: When we live in the light of Jesus, we can be empowered to just love like Jesus loves.

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:20

And Jesus said, "Never will I leave you or forsake you."

Take Home Message: The light of Jesus is always with you, given to you, shining through you, illuminating the world around you. Jesus invites you to live in his light. This light is where your faith grows and blesses the world around you.

Main Scripture Reading: 1John:1-10

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. **2** The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. **3** We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **4** We write this to make our^[a] joy complete.

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. **7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^[b] sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all

unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Other Scripture References: Psalm 119:105

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. Pastor Tim opened the message with a discussion about movies, looking into the future. What do you think your life would be like if you were able to look into your own future?
2. Now, on the other side of Easter, Pastor Tim mentioned several times how the death and resurrection of Jesus *changes everything*. What does this mean to you? How does it change everything?
3. Part of the mission as a church, and as an individual believer, is to point people to Jesus.
 - Consider your relationships with family, friends, co-workers, fellow Christians, as well as strangers. What are some specific, actionable ways that you could point the people in your life to Jesus?
4. Pastor Tim also discussed the risk of prayers that are overwhelmed by anxiety in light of both domestic and international current events. Ask a few volunteers to share what they are most concerned about.
5. If we spend most of our prayer time emotionally dumping our fears and worries on God, we run the risk of focusing more on anxiety, rather than faith and trust in God. Does your prayer life leave feeling empowered by the hope, love, peace and courage of Christ, or feeling even more anxious?
 - How can you shift your focus in your prayer time from emotionally dumping to feeling empowered by Christ?

Let's Pray

Dear Lord, we are so grateful to know of your life, death and resurrection, and how these truths free us from the power of sin and death. Now, through the power of your Holy Spirit within us, we can share the good news by extending the same love, mercy and forgiveness to others, that you have shown to us. In Jesus name, Amen.