




Greater Love: Prism

1 John 2:28–3:10

Brandon Lauranzon, September 19 & 20, 2015

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read 1 John 2:28–3:10. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Can you think of something that is at first wonderful, but upon further inspection and discovery of it is even more amazing than you thought?
- 2 What was your one big/main takeaway from the service? If someone had arrived as everyone was leaving, and they stopped you in the parking lot and asked, "What was the sermon about?" what would you have said?

THE PAST LOVE OF GOD THAT ADOPTS US AS CHILDREN BY REMOVING THE PENALTY OF SIN

- 3 Brandon said, "Christianity is not based on myth, wishful thinking, or psychological construct." What is Christianity based on, and why is that important?
- 4 Discuss the following quote by J.I. Packer:
If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how

much he makes of the thought of God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means he does not understand Christianity very well at all.

What difference does it make (or should it make) in your life when you remember that you are an adopted child of God?

- 6 How is the love of God even greater than the love that was shown in the adoption video? Why was it necessary that Jesus be sinless in order to restore our relationship to the heavenly Father?

THE PRESENT LOVE OF GOD THAT GROWS US AS CHILDREN BY REMOVING THE POWER OF SIN

- 7 Do you go through the daily routines of life with a sense that God loves you?
- 8 Read 1 John 3, verses 6 and 9 again. In your own words, what is John *not* saying, and what *is* John saying?
- 9 How could you use the following questions to perform a spiritual check up?
Do you take sin seriously? Do you repent of your sin? Do you long to be rid of your sin? Do you strive against sin in your life with all the means God has given you?
- 10 Explain what Brandon meant when he said, “Likeness to God is not the creator of relationship, rather it is the proof of relationship.” What gives love a unique, transforming power?

THE FUTURE LOVE OF GOD THAT GIVES US HOPE AS CHILDREN BY REMOVING THE PRESENCE OF SIN

- 11 What was the point of the illustrations of the U.S. Capitol and long distance swimmer, Florence Chadwick?
- 12 What sins are you looking forward to having fully removed when Jesus returns?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?