




## Greater Love: Passing the Test

1 John 4:1-12

Adam Jones, October 3 & 4, 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 4:1-12. 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 Icebreaker: What was your least favorite kind of test when you were in school?
- 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 DOCTRINE TEST

- 3 How would you respond to someone who says that Christianity is too exclusive?
- 4 What do you think is good about our cultures emphasis on tolerance? What is not good?
- 5 What did Adam mean when he said, "Other people who don't believe like you might be better than you"?

## THE LOVE TEST

6 Why do love for Jesus and love for His church go hand in hand?

7 Discuss the following quote by D.A. Carson.

Ideally...the church itself is not made up of natural “friends”. It is made up of natural enemies. What binds us together is not common education, common race, common income levels, common politics, common nationality, common accents, common jobs, or anything else of that sort. Christians come together because... they have all been loved by Jesus himself... They are a band of natural enemies who love one another for Jesus’ sake.

## THE GOSPEL TEST

8 Why is the "gospel test "one test that you must fail over and over again?

9 How have we forgotten the gospel when we start to think that we are more deserving than others?

## 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?