



Sermon Discussion Guide




Greater Love: New Birth

1 John 4:19–5:5

Ray Cortese, October 10 & 11, 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 4:19–5:5. 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 has been the most significant transition in your life lately?
- 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?

NEW BIRTH: THE IMPERATIVE

- 3 What is the negative view that some people have of "born again Christians"? What is incorrect about that view?
- 4 You can go to church your whole life and yet never be born again. In your own words, what does it mean to be "born again"?

- 5 What did Ray mean when he said, “Regeneration precedes faith”? Discuss the following quote:

In God you come up against something which is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself. Unless you know God as that—and, therefore, know yourself as nothing in comparison—you do not know God at all. As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.

NEW BIRTH: THE FRUIT

- 6 *A New Mind*. What is wrong with Joel Osteen’s teaching? What is underneath the idea of the selfie?
- 7 *A New Heart*. 1 John 5:3 says, “His commandments are not burdensome”. How does our view of God’s commandments change when he gives us a new heart? What will allow you/give you the power to say no to sin?
- 8 *A New Mission*. C.S. Lewis said, “Christianity is fighting religion. It thinks that many things have gone wrong with the world that God made and that God insists, and insists very loudly, on putting them right again.” How do you think God wants to enlist you in this fight to put things right in the world? Are you constantly outraged? How can you stop being so angry all the time?

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?