



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WEEK OF JULY 18, 2021

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. If you haven't yet, please take a moment and download the Church Center App. You can sign up for groups and events with it. Thank you!



2. If you haven't yet, please take a moment and mark your calendar for the Parish Retreat: October 22-24, 2021 at [Caboose Farm in MD](#)
3. **Rez Women's Ministry–Ice Cream Social** - July 24th at 4:00 pm; Rez Side-yard. Kids are welcome. Contact Allison Beattie or Sarah Haggerty if you have questions.
4. The Rodriguez family arrives on July 26! You can help them settle in by taking them a meal, gifting them a card, or loaning your wheels to them for a bit.

### SCRIPTURAL PASSAGE

Our passage for today is **1 John 2:3-11**. It is part of a wider passage (2:1-14) that is centered on three purpose statements. In 2:1 last week, we saw John say he was “writing so you will not sin.” In 2:7, we see John “not writing a new command, but an old one.” And in a week, in 2:12-14, we’ll see John writing to “dear children, fathers, and young men.”

In last week’s passage, we saw John writing about our righteous advocate, Jesus, who atoned for the sins of the whole world. He exhorted believers not to sin. This week, we’ll see John assuring believers that they can know they know Jesus, because they keep his commandments.

### Discussion Questions

1. **In verses 3-4, John writes that “we know we have come to know him if we keep his commandments; but whoever says they know God but does not keep his commandments is a liar.” What do you think John means by these verses, and what commandments is he talking about here?**

2. Why would obeying God give us assurance that we know him? What examples from your own life can you share?
3. In verses 7-8, John brings back the commandment: he writes of an old commandment, and then says that it's a new commandment. What is this commandment (hint: it's the same one we just discussed), and how can it be both old and new at the same time?
4. John has serious words in vv 9-11 for those who hate a brother. How could you respond when you are in deep disagreement about something with someone in the church (or your actual family)?
5. Scot McKnight describes biblical love as "rugged commitment" because it is hard work.<sup>1</sup> When have you had to work hard to love someone? What did you do, and what was the outcome?

## PRAYER

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

### Confession of Sin

*The Officiant says to the people*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept. Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.**

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<sup>1</sup> Scot McKnight, *A Fellowship of Differents* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014), 53-59.

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*A deacon or lay person says*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Intercessions and thanksgivings follow. Please include the following in your prayer:*

*Missionary: Jim Hagan - Serving at Coalition for Christian Outreach and the Augustine Center*

*Persecuted Church and her Persecutors: [Vietnam](#)*

*Global Concern: For peace in countries undergoing civil unrest, revolution, or war.*

*Church Ministry: Men's, Women's, Children's Ministry*

*The General Thanksgiving*

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord!

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The Officiant may then concludes*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*

