



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of February 20, 2023

1. Read 1 John 2:7-11. John says that he didn't write about a new command, but an old command that these Christians have been hearing since "day one" of their faith journey. What is that command? (see John 13:34-35)
2. Since the days of the Old Testament, God had commanded His people to do two things: Love God and Love People. How did Jesus put a "new" spin on this command to love?
3. Down through the centuries, Christians have been known for many things— some good (hospitals, orphanages, clothing the needy and helping the poor) and some bad things too (legalistic rules, majoring on the minors). According to John 13:34-35 and 1 John 2:7, what is the true hallmark of the Christian person? What does this look like in real life?
4. Take a quick glance at 2 Corinthians 5:17. Paul writes that for the believer, old things are going away and new things are coming. In 1 John 2:8, what does John says is growing dimmer and what is growing stronger for the Christian?
5. John writes in verse 9 that the person who continues to persist in a habitual pattern of hating people is still in the darkness—and isn't a Christian. Why is hate so contrary to Christ and the Christian life? (see also John 3:16 and Galatians 2:20)
6. This section has a number of important CONTRASTS that help us see what a healthy, spiritually alive Christian looks like. Can you identify them? Can you explain them?

_____ vs *Darkness* *Hatred* vs _____ _____ vs *Stumbling*

7. Over the past year, your church friends Tim and Sara have grown hyper-critical about the local church. They constantly criticize people, they bad-mouth deacons, and they're still nursing a grudge against the pastor for changing the service time. If given the opportunity, what would you say to them about their attitudes and approach to church?