



GCBC Sermon Application & Discussion Guide (for individuals, families, small groups, etc.)

What to do right after the service to help “the Word dwell more richly,” within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God in the message encouraged you?”
2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don’t let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share
[Above from book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member*]

For further Application, Meditation and Conversation on today’s text:

Date: 8/29/2021 “God’s Priority is Love” (1 John 4:7-12)

1. In this passage, much like other passages in first John, John uses very strong words to make his point about love in escapable. Which statements in this paragraph do you find most convicting, concerning the absolute necessity for Christians to love? Why are they so convicting?
2. In 3:9-10, John uses the image of children inheriting the likeness of their parents – “born of God...it is evident who are the children of God...” – how does John return to this picture concerning love (4:7-8)?
3. Twice in this passage, John describes Christ's work of atonement as the foremost display of God’s love for his own children (vv.9-10) – a moving summary of the gospel! As you note the descriptions, what emphases do you notice?
 - a. “In this the love of God was made manifest . . .” (v. 9):
 - b. “In this is love . . .” (v. 10):
4. In verse 11, what is meant to be the result of understanding and rejoicing in the preceding verses about God’s love (vv.9-10)?
5. God’s love being “perfected in us” can also be understood to mean “made complete” (v.12). What might John have in mind here, and how does this verse help us know how to pray for ourselves and for our church? How does John 13:34-35 connect to this concept? How does the Lord intend to use our being “made complete” in love to impact the world?