

Finding *Renewal* in the Love of God

Unit 6: Living Renewal as a Testimony to the Eternal Life

Study Questions

The Amazing Life of Joy:

1. Read 1 John 1.1-8 in the Message. How would you describe the writer's overwhelming emotion concerning having been a witness to the *life of Christ on earth*? Write a few adjectives that describe the way the author feels about this life he has received.
2. According to 1.5-8, why is he writing this letter? What does this tell us about his feelings about the life he lives in Christ?
3. What can we learn from John's enthusiasm as expressed in the first chapter of the book? On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is barely at all and 10 is a perfect match, how does your excitement about your life in Christ compare with that of John's? Why do you think so?

The Amazing Life of Victory:

4. Read the scriptures below and write beside each notation what it is John says the Christian has/can overcome by the power of her life in Christ.
 - a. 1.7, 2.2 We **have overcome**...
 - b. 2.28-29 We **have overcome**...
 - c. 4.4 We **have overcome**...
 - d. 5.4 We **have overcome**...

The Amazing Life of Confidence:

5. Write below the many manners of confidence described in this text? (5.13-15)

The Amazing Life of Protection:

6. Read 1 John 5.18-20.
 - e. From whom is the Christian protected?
 - f. By whom is the Christian protected?
 - g. How is the Christian protected? (see also 2.13-14 and 4.4)

A Life of Belonging in the Father's love: (see texts below)

Belonging to the family:

7. In 3.1-2, what is our current reality which flows from the amazing love of God?
8. In the same text, what drawback is there to this position we hold while we remain on earth?

9. What might we anticipate (though we cannot fully understand now) in the future?

Living out love:

10. Read 2.1-11.
 - a. In the first paragraph of Chapter 2, verses 1-6, what kind of life is the Christian to live in this world?

 - b. In the second paragraph of Chapter 2, verses 7-11, the writer outlines his basic idea regarding this type life. He speaks of a commandment that has existed since the beginning, but which has been "freshly minted" in Christ and now in all Christians. Read these verses: Lev. 19.18, John 13.34; John 15.12; 1 John 3.11-14, 23; 1 John 4.7-12. What is this commandment?

 - c. How does failing to dwell in the light of this commandment affect our brothers and sisters according to 1 John 2.7-11?

Choosing the right:

11. Read 1 John 2.15-17. What one word is most often repeated in this paragraph?
- a. Find two sources of for my desires. _____ or _____.
- b. Complete the following sentence: According to 1 John 2.15-17, I have two choices.
I can do what _____ want, or I can do what _____ wants.
- c. How does my decision about this choice impact the manner in which the fruits of my desire endure?
- d. As I examine my life in reference to this paragraph, how does my response to this choice impact my finances? My time? My marriage? My other relationships?
12. In 1 John 3.7-10, John says, "people conceived and brought into life by God do not make a practice of sin." Why not?
13. In chapter 4, verses 15-19, John writes of other benefits of such a love. What is it about our participation in God's love that frees us from fear?
14. Consider the headings in this group of questions (listed below). On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is barely at all and 10 represents the total package, rate your experience in Christ regarding the life that John desires each Christian to possess.
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| d. Life of Joy | h. Life of Belonging to the |
| e. Life of Victory | family |
| f. Life of Confidence | i. Life of Living out Love |
| g. Life of Protection | j. Life of choosing the right |
| | k. |
15. Which of the above received the lowest rating(s)? Reconsider the passages related to these qualities of life.
- l. What is it in my life that limits me keeps me from possessing this part of the Christian experience as fully as I might?
- m. What changes might I make in my life that would aid me in continuing to grow in this area?