

NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 12/7/2020-12/13/2020

The following content is based on the message on 12/6/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY

Read 1 John 3:1-3 and John 1:12. John encourages us to remember our true identity as children of God. Once we place our faith in Jesus (i.e. “receive Him”), we are from that point on considered His children. We join a larger family consisting of all believers.

To believe in Jesus is to become a child of God.

There are many amazing implications of this reality. Our new family has a perfect Father, modeling perfect love, where we can belong forever. We find a safety in Jesus’ family that we can find no where else.

- *What are some additional implication of being a child of God?*
- *Take a moment and thank God that he sees you as His child.*

TUESDAY

Read Romans 8:29-30. In this passage, the apostle Paul highlights the theological reality of our spiritual journey.

Christians are on a journey from brokenness to wholeness.

The great blessing of salvation we receive from faith in Christ has a past, present, and future aspect (generally speaking). Theologians use three important terms to describe this theological journey as it relates to our salvation from sin. Children of God have escaped future punishment for their sin (i.e. Justification) and now await their future glorified bodies away from the presence of sin (i.e. Glorification). In the mean time, Jesus is working in us to make us more like himself by saving us from the power of sin (i.e. Sanctification).

- *One bonus truth of this theological journey is found in Romans 8:28. Why can we know that God will work all things for good in our lives? (Hint: The answer is in verses 29-30 and has to do with how long he has been and will be working in our lives.)*
- *Take a moment to thank God for each of these theological realities: being saved from the punishment, power, and presence of sin.*

WEDNESDAY

Read Romans 7:15-19. The apostle Paul highlights here the bad news that even though we may not want to sin, we still will (see also 1 John 1:8). Both the Scripture and our own experiences tell us that this is true. This is what makes John’s words about those who “practice sinning” so frightening. If I sin, does that mean that I am a “child of the devil” or have not been born again? Obviously, this cannot be the case. What

John IS saying here is that the very fact that you are a true child of God keeps you from remaining in this state of perpetual sinfulness.

Though we will not be perfect in this world, we can still choose good over evil.

When a child of God slips into a pattern of sinful behavior, the indwelling Holy Spirit eventually moves him or her away from that sin and toward Christ.

- *Reflect on a time when you have experienced a powerful awareness of your own sinful patterns of behavior. What do you think was happening at that moment?*
- *What would you tell a Christian friend who was worried that they sin “too much?”*

THURSDAY

Read 1 John 3:8-10. It is true that Jesus accepts us just as we are, but equally true that He loves us too much to let us stay there. Much of the Christian life is spent living this tension out. Many people struggle with this second truth—that God sees something in us that needs to be changed. We like to pretend we’re fine just the way we are. But Jesus cares about sin, because He knows it is not good for us. IF Jesus didn’t care about the sin in our lives, then He wouldn’t care about us. He loves us and wants what is best for us.

Illumination of sin in our conscience is an active sign of God’s love for us.

- *What is Jesus illuminating in your life? Is there some sin Jesus is trying to expose?*
- *Take a moment to confess those things and thank God that He has already forgiven you for them. Thank Him for unending love.*

FRIDAY

Read 1 John 3:11-18. The greatest example Jesus gave us is to show us what true love looked like. He loved us so much that He gave up His life. It serves as an example of how we should treat other people. Jesus even said this is the way people will know we follow Him. Simply put, we must love others.

True believers in Jesus love others, especially other believers.

Of course, it is not enough to express that love in words alone. We must follow the example of loving others with meaningful actions.

- *Why is loving other children of God such a strong indicator of our faith in Jesus?*
- *Take a moment to reflect on your love for other believers. Would people know you follow Jesus by your love? Share your reflections with Jesus in prayer.*