

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (John 3:22-36)

1. Have you been to a wedding or other event where those who were supposed to be “honored” were upstaged by others?
What was the situation and what was the reaction of those who were involved?
What was your reaction/thought as you saw this happening (or after the fact)?
2. Consider John the Baptist’s response to his disciple’s concerns (about people leaving him to follow Jesus):
What can we do in order to pursue the same attitude that He has in his life?
What does this reveal about His motive behind all that He does, and is this same motive in your life consistently?
In my sermon, I referenced 1 Corinthians 3:3-7, how is this relevant to what we see happening here in John 3?
What can we do to combat the church to church or ministry to ministry competition?
As you look at the culture of New Hope Church, do you see an attitude of competition from one ministry to another?
What about from within the church to those involved in other churches?
**If you’d like to discuss any of this with me, I’d be grateful to hear from you about your observations/concerns here.

3. Why do you think John has gone to such great lengths from the beginning of this book to clarify the reality of our condition?
How do you feel, as a society, we respond to the reality of us “remaining” condemned if we don’t trust in Jesus?
Does this motivate you more or less to share the gospel with others?
When you share the gospel with others, do you believe this is a necessary point to make?
What responses have you received from people when you share this truth with them?

**I’ve found that many times, we tend to “think of ourselves more highly than we ought” and struggle to see ourselves as we REALLY are in light of the eternal perfection & holiness of God! When we compare ourselves horizontally, we can always find people who we believe to be “worse” than we are, but when we look vertically, we realize that our “goodness” really is as “filthy rags” in comparison to the pure holiness of our Lord. This also leads us to look inwardly and see our own sin more clearly, which helps us to recognize that, perhaps even horizontally, our evil is just as reviling to our Lord as those we think are worse than us! This, ultimately, should lead us to recognize our desperate need for Jesus and His sacrifice on our behalf!!

4. We’re three chapters into the book of John now, as you look back so far - what do you see as the most common theme(s)?
Where do you see John making a case for the divinity of Jesus Christ?
What difference does that make for us in our lives (both here & now and for all of eternity?)
Why is it important for us to get the nature of Jesus right?
As you look back, how many times can you see the gospel outlined or clearly articulated just in these three chapters?
What has been your biggest takeaway in the first three chapters?

5. Below are the “So What?” statements from the end of the sermon.
Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

- 1. Whoever rejects Jesus is under God's wrath!**
- 2. Whoever believes in Jesus receives eternal life!**
- 3. Belief & obedience necessarily go hand-in-hand!**
- 4. He (Jesus) must increase; but I must decrease!**