

## Part 3: *Heart Transplant*

(Part 19 in the continuing series "Jesus by John")

### APPETIZER – Listening to Love

**1 John 5:18; Romans 7:16-17, 20;  
2 Corinthians 5:16-17; Colossians 3:3**

We are FREE from the **penalty** and **power** of sin.  
We are NOT FREE from the **presence** and **possibility** of sin.

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY is not about learning a new set of rules to make God happy. (That is the way of religion.) It is a state of being and becoming that allows us to do whatever we want, because what we want is being shaped by the life and love of God.

Live by love, and do what you want. (**1 Corinthians 10:23**)

EXTERNALLY: We allow the example and teaching of Jesus to guide us.

INTERNALLY: We listen to who we really are and do what we really want.

### DOUBLE MOVEMENT SPIRITUALITY...

**John 7:37-39**

### SINGLE MOVEMENT PROBLEMS:

- Non-Christians reaching IN, without the Spirit. (**Jeremiah 17:8-10**)
- Christians reaching OUT to Jesus, but not listening INWARD.

## MAIN COURSE – The New Heart of the New Covenant

**John 3:1-13**

**Daniel 7:13-14; Mark 14:62**

Why should Nicodemus have known better?

### WHAT THE PROPHETS PROMISED...

- **Isaiah 43:18-19** – God is doing a new thing.
- **Isaiah 44:3** – God will pour out his Spirit on his people like water on dry grass.
- **Jeremiah 31:28-34** – New Covenant, written on hearts, emphasis on forgiveness
- **Ezekiel 36:25-27 (11:19-20)** – Clean water that washes, new heart, new spirit
- **Ezekiel 37:1-14** – God will put his Spirit in his people and revive them.
- **Joel 2:29-29** – God will pour out his Spirit on all people.

### THE NEW COVENANT REALITY...

- **1 Corinthians 6:11** – We “were” sinners, but now washed and justified.
- **2 Corinthians 4:6** – God made his light shine in our hearts.
- **Romans 5:5** – God poured his love into our hearts by his Spirit.
- **Romans 6:11** – We are dead to sin, and alive to Christ.
- **Galatians 2:20** – “I” no longer live, but Christ lives in me.
- **Galatians 4:19** – Paul labours for others “until Christ is formed in you”.

### TAKE OUT – There’s Someone I’d Like You to Meet

THE GOAL of Christian spirituality involves helping one another **slow down** enough and **get connected** enough to know our true selves, to hear our own hearts, and to listen to the voice of Love.

**Ephesians 4:22-24; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Galatians 5:22-23**



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## Home Church Questions...

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. What do you think of the often used advice, "You just need to trust your heart"? Good advice? Misleading? Meaningless? Or what?
2. Take time to review Sunday's message. What stood out to you?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Read **John 3:1-13**.
  - a. What verse or idea from the text stands out to you? Why?
  - b. Notice Jesus speaks in "we/our" terms in verse 11. Jesus chose to make the Church (the gathering of God's people) indispensable to his self-disclosure to the world. Jesus could have written a book himself, and miraculously preserved it in some obvious way (a God box descending from heaven to keep it pristine?). He could have entered history at a time when at least his voice could have been recorded so we could listen directly today. Then we would have his EXACT words without any human imperfection involved in transmission. Wow. Straight from Jesus to us. But that's not what he did. He involves the Church from the beginning. Jesus never wrote a word. It is the followers of Jesus, the Church, who listen, record, copy, preserve, translate, and print the Bibles we have today. So why do you think God took this approach to revealing his Son, the Word-made-flesh, to the world? What are the strengths and weaknesses of this approach? What can we learn about God, and about us, from this "we" approach to God's revelation?
  - c. The term "Son of Man" is used in many Old Testament passages to refer to a regular person, especially to highlight their weakness. Yet one passage, **Daniel 7:13-14**, uses the phrase to highlight God's special one, to whom all authority is given to be the King an eternal Kingdom. Jesus used the phrase of himself this way (see **Mark 14:62**). Why do you think Jesus chose this phrase as his primary self designation?
4. Rapid Fire Reading. Read the references for "What the Prophets Promised" listed in your notes, followed by the "New Covenant Reality" passages. Take your time, let it sink in. This is about you.
  - a. What stands out to you the most?
  - b. How have you experienced this reality in your life this past week? Month? Ever?
  - c. What have you done this past week to partner with and live out this truth?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

5. Take a few minutes to have someone *slowly* (with pauses) read through the characteristics of love (that is, God's essence, in whose image we are made and re-made) in **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** and **Galatians 5:22-23**. Begin with prayer, asking God to help you see each characteristic in your true self, wanting to be expressed. Feel it, knowing that the Holy Spirit is working with you to become your best self. End with prayer, thanking God for making you and remaking you in his image and inviting his continued help this week.

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## Quotes...

We cannot consistently behave in ways that are different from what we believe about ourselves.

~ Kenneth Boa, *Conformed to His Image*

We live out who we believe we are.

~ Eric Geiger, *Identity*

Being born again starts in a moment of faith, but becoming like Christ takes a lifetime.

~ Bruce B. Barton, *Life Application Bible Commentary*

The Holy Spirit comes to make us more human, more fully alive.

~ Douglas Jacobsen & Rodney J. Sawatsky, *Gracious Christianity*

**I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.**

~ **God (through the prophet Ezekiel)**

**You are a new creation.**

~ **The Apostle Paul**

**You should not be surprised at me saying you must be born again.**

~ **Jesus of Nazareth**