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Lead Pastor

## **John 2:23-3:21**

**Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in Him. But Jesus didn't trust them, because He knew all about people. No one needed to tell Him about human nature, for He knew what was in each person's heart.**

**There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent You to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with You." Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."**

## John 2:23-3:21

**“What do You mean?” exclaimed Nicodemus. “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”**

**Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.”**

**“How are these things possible?” Nicodemus asked. Jesus replied, “You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don’t understand these things?”**

## **John 2:23-3:21**

**I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. But if you don't believe Me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.**

**“For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.**

## **John 2:23-3:21**

**“There is no judgment against anyone who believes in Him. But anyone who does not believe in Him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”**

- **27.3% of American adults have anxiety problems**
- **41.7% of young adults (18 to 29 years) have anxiety**
- **64% of people with mental illness say holidays make their condition worse**
- **3 of 5 Americans feel their mental health is negatively impacted by the holidays**

**Isaiah 9:6-7**

**For a child is born to us,  
a son is given to us.**

**The government will rest on His shoulders.**

**And He will be called**

**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,**

**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**His government and its peace  
will never end.**

**He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David  
for all eternity.**

**The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies  
will make this happen!**

## **November**

**12TH – Hope over Despair**

**19TH – Confession over Concealment**

**26TH – Perseverance over Fragility**

## **December**

**3RD – First Sunday of Advent Worship Service**

**10th – Local Presence over Omnipresence**

**17TH – Doctrine over Desire**

**24TH – Jesus over Everything**



## JOHN 2:23-3:21 - JESUS SPEAKS ...

### **1. A statement about human nature.**

The source of basically all our anxiety, pain, and emptiness.

### **2. An invitation to metaphysical transformation.**

The only way to find lasting deliverance.

## JOHN 2:23-3:2 - STATEMENT ABOUT HUMAN NATURE

Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in Him. But Jesus didn't trust them, because He knew all about people. No one needed to tell Him about human nature, for He knew what was in each person's heart.

Human nature is not theocentric, it's egocentric.

Our primary interest is self-interest.

## JOHN 2:23-3:2 - STATEMENT ABOUT HUMAN NATURE

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus.

## Jesus to Nicodemus

“you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

“You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don’t understand these things?”

“you won’t believe our testimony.”

“anyone who does not believe in [Me] has already been judged”

“people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil”

“All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed.”

JOHN 2:25

No one needed to tell Him about human nature, for He knew what was in each person's heart.

“If only it were so simple! If only they were evil people, somewhat insidiously committing evil deeds, and it was necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?”

– *Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian historian and Nobel laureate who exposed the horrors of Soviet gulag camps*

## JOHN 3:19-20

God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed.



## **Doctrine of the Image of God**

All people are inherently and immeasurably valuable

## **Doctrine of Adoption**

"To all who believed in him and accepted him, [Jesus] gave the right to become children of God.

Where is your darkness?

## Where is your darkness?

- Sins of Commission - Things you do that you shouldn't.
- Sins of Omission - Things you don't do that you should.

# JOHN 2:23-3:21 - JESUS SPEAKS ...

## **1. A statement about human nature.**

The source of basically all our anxiety, pain, and emptiness.

## **2. An invitation to metaphysical transformation.**

The only way to find lasting deliverance.

JOHN 3:3

“I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

## JOHN 3:8

The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit.”

John 3:16 - For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:18-21 - “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in Him. But anyone who does not believe in Him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”



## **Doctrine of Regeneration**

An instantaneous, metaphysical, inner change to the very essence of your soul that cures the sickness of sin and launches a life-long process of healing.

## **Doctrine of Sanctification**

The life long process of healing for those who have been regenerated - "Re-Regeneration"

## Struggling with a life-dominating sin:

- Admit I have a struggle I cannot overcome without God.
- Acknowledge the breadth and impact of my sin.
- Understand the origin, motive, and history of my sin.
- Repent to God for how my sin replaced and misrepresented him.
- Confess to those affected for harm done, and seek to make amends.
- Restructure my life to rely on God's grace and his Word to transform my life.
- Implement the new structure with humility and flexibility.
- Persevere in the new life and identity to which God has called me.
- Steward all of my life for God's glory.

If you want to find peace in an anxious world, you must  
choose confession over concealment.

## JOHN 3:19-21

And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.

## JOHN 3:19-21

All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

# JOHN 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness  
can never extinguish it.