



**Filters - Grace vs. Sin**  
**Sermon Discussion Questions - May 2, 2021**

***Scripture Passages:***

**1 John 4:16-18** And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgement: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

**1 John 4:17** This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgement: In this world we are like Jesus.

**Ezekiel 36:26** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

**John 14:2-3** My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

***Warm Up:***

In the beginning of her message, Pastor Justine talked about her reindeer glasses and how they turn lights into images of reindeer. Have you had any cool or funny experiences with different kinds of glasses? (ie. wearing someone else's, 3D, etc.) Share the experience with your group.

***Discussion:***

1. In this series, we have learned that the lens we have on can shape how we view every-

thing around us.

How can you tell which lens is shaping your reality? Where do you see this happening in the culture around us? What is the result of many different lenses interacting?

2. In her message, Pastor Justine described part of the process or potential temptation we've gone through while defining our unholy trinity: *Instead of defining our unholy trinity, we start to think our unholy trinity defines us.*

How have you seen this in your own life? How has this effected your view of your identity (who you are) and your future (this is who you will always be)?

3. In this series we have been talking about how to replace our unholy trinity with a new filter, and one key that Pastor Justine touched on her message comes from 1 John 4:16, "we know and rely on the love God has for us."

What does it mean to rely on someone or something? What might it look like to really rely on the love of God? How might this idea contrast your unholy filters?

4. Excerpt from Pastor Justine:

*How many of us have lived out of our unholy trinity, seen growth and improvement, then found ourselves back struggling again? And when that happens our natural reaction is to do spiritual trouble shooting. We fixate on what we can do. We subtly slip into self-condemnation and legalism, and discipline to an unhealthy level, instead of knowing and relying on God's love.*

How have you seen this happen in your own life? What is your spiritual checklist you go to rather than relying on God's love?

5. Read 1 John 4:16. The word for "lives in" is often used in reference to a place or physical location. John uses the word and applies it to our ability to remain with and live in God. How might remaining with God be like remaining in a physical place? What does it mean to remain in God?

6. Read 1 John 4:17. Pastor Justine described in the life changing reality from this series: *God doesn't just offer us grace for our salvation. God offers us grace for our transformation.*

What might it mean for God to offer you grace for your transformation? How have you seen God's grace at work in your life beyond the act of salvation?

7. Excerpt from Pastor Justine:

*Because if God's love is being made complete in us then, in this world we are like Jesus. And what that means is we don't just get victory over our behaviors, but God is offering to give us victory over our broken desires.*

How have you seen God transform not just your behaviors but your desires?

How might knowing our desires can be transformed impact the way we understand grace, sin, and God's love?

8. Toward the end of her message, Pastor Justine shared the story about Miss Phroneys' rose-colored glasses.

What part of this story most connected with you and your perspective on life? What might we do to end up with a filter on life more like Miss Phroneys'?

***Next Steps:***

At the end of her message, Pastor Justine gave some homework:

1. In the left column, write your unholy trinity.
2. In the right column, write the redeemed version of your trinity.
3. Across the bottom write out 1 John 4:16.
4. Hang it on your fridge, mirror, dashboard, or wherever you will see it.
5. When you see it, start breathing this prayer... *"God I know and rely on your love. Help me live in your love today. And now God please let your love live in me."*

Take some time to pray as a group that each one who is a part would experience God's grace transforming them.