

## 1. Get Acquainted: Icebreaker, Against Design

What is something or someone that you have given a poor review but you were actually evaluating it without regard for its original design?

- Tim Rice's examples:
  - After using a wrench as a hammer, concluding it is a bad wrench.
  - Lawn mower as a car
- Possible examples:
  - Employment – great person wrong task becomes sorry person due to poor performance.
  - Skill or Talent – someone has that I conclude they have more value or worth than someone else or me

## 2. Worship: Orphans vs Sons & Daughters

Only former enemies of God that are now no less than daughters and sons, those are the inhabitants of heaven. Worship God for His astounding grace and mercy as the work of Jesus is applied to those who are His. Spend some time worshiping God by reading and reflecting on what you were, to what you have become. Pick one of the 5 descriptions that moves your heart to praise God His greatness revealed in our dependence.

### The Orphan – Life as Self-Effort

Jn 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you.

1. Feels alone; lacks a vital daily intimacy with God; “a vacuum of self-concern”
2. Full of anxiety over “felt needs;” friends, money, etc; “I’m alone and nobody cares; not a happy camper
3. Lives on a success/fail basis; must “look good” at any cost; performance oriented
4. Feels condemned, guilty and unworthy before God and others
5. Has a “little faith” lots of fear, no ability to really trust God. “I’ve got to fix it.”

### Sons and Daughters – The Light Life of Faith

1 Jn 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

1. Has a growing assurance that “God is **really** MY loving Heavenly Father”
2. Trusts the Father and has a growing confidence in His loving care; is being freed up from worry
3. Learning to live in daily self-conscious partnership with God; not fearful
4. Feels loved, forgiven, and totally accepted because Christ’s merit really clothes you.
5. A Daily working trust in God’s sovereign plan for his life as loving wise and best

### 3. Kingdom Centered Prayer:

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...

1. Worship the LORD, God Almighty. for His holiness and goodness. Praise God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that He is good, true, pure, and the One who has conquered evil in Christ.
2. How have you lived in unbelief and rebellion? Agree with Jesus that you have been foolish and loveless to live this way, and ask Him to cleanse **and change you** by His Grace.
3. Give thanks to the Lord for His first “appearing” (the term John uses) when He came to remove our sin and destroy the devil’s work. *And thank Him for His second appearing when He will judge all people and put everything right.*
4. Who do you know that struggles with living for God? Pray for them, asking the Lord to open their eyes to how much they need Him, and to understand that His design of all things is the source of all goodness.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and goodness. Pray that the Spirit would work for your renewal, and that *we would be the kind of church that would truly help people to see Jesus and show Him to others.*

### 4. Sermon Reflection:

#### **Proclamation of God’s Word**

**Text:** 1 John 2:28-3:10 (ESV)

**Title:** This is How We Know: We Are God’s Children **Teacher:** Tim Rice

2:28 And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming. 29 If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. ... 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. 4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. 8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

#### **Introduction: What defines your sense of purpose or identity?**

- Family?
- \$?
- Job?
- Children’s performance?
- Your failure?
- Your Success?

### **A Solid Design With A Clear Aim**

The Lord is good, loving, righteous, pure and we were made to live in His likeness...

Personal Emphasis: Original or Faithful

- Original – Out of Design, Unique to YOU, Conformity to Self
- Faithful – following design, Conformity to Him in love, purity, goodness

### **Enticed & Independent**

How has the devil lead to a destructive movement of rebellion and sin?

Radical Individualism – Satan’s Narrative as an Alternative

- Oppression as Freedom
- Your Work vs God’s Work
- Individual vs Community
- Independence vs Dependence

### **Beloved Children**

Confident in the work of another – Jesus  
Jesus denies himself

Father’s View

- You have gone from Dis-figured to Beautiful
- Our Father can’t keep his Eyes off of YOU

Application:

- Do you see you as God does? Who is correct in their view?
- What have you done against God or your neighbor that is greater than what Jesus has done for you?
- Only the love of God displaces the shame of our doings. How will you enjoy that more this week?

## **5. Mission: Enemies to Children sent on a Love Offensive**

We are the former enemies of God become the Children of God sent each day, in each relationship to love.

Tim quotes Renea Brown from her Ted talk on “Shame” as she distinguished between:

Guilt and Shame:

- Guilt – you have *done* a bad thing
- Shame – you have done a bad thing therefore you “*are bad*”

God has been kind to give me so many opportunities to realize my guilt in how I have added to peoples shaming in my thoughtless words by allowing me to live in my home town. It is a skill to discern guilt from shame. Guilt and shame are both gifts from God but to understand them as God designed them takes maturity, thoughtfulness and Biblical wisdom. We are here to help each other to understand and enjoy both to their God given purpose. Remember, true love casts out all guilt and shame.

- Who is one person that you could call and ask them to forgive you for *shaming them this week*?
  - Example: I had to call my nephew last week for reacting and attacking him after he called to confess some ongoing sin in his life.
  - Example: I got to apologize to a friend for over reacting to his response to a conversation we had been involved in the day before.
  - Example: In making a joke I so over emphasized a story that a friend met with me to correct the problem as if I was representing truth in my silliness.