

Refocus By Expressing Love
I JOHN 2, 4 Matthew 25:31-45

New Vision's Mission and Method. - New Vision exists to transform people and their communities by replicating followers of the biblical Jesus through expressing love, equipping believers, empowering service, and evangelizing near and far.

I. Refocus begins with understanding that God first loved us I John 4:7-10; 17-19

A. God's love is good news 7-10

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

B God's love removes fear 17-19

17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 19 We love Him because He first loved us.

II. Focus is lost when we are tempted by distractions. I John 2:15,16

A. Distraction comes by misplaced desires (15)

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

B. Distraction can come from three areas of our lives (16)

16 For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

III. Refocus begins when we love God and others I John 4:20-21, Matthew 25:31-45

A. Love and hate don't mix in God's kingdom

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

B. Love is to be expressed to God and others (21)

21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

Conclusion

I. Refocus begins with understanding that God first loved us.

II. Focus is lost when we are tempted by distractions.

III. Refocus begins when we love God and others