

ActNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Connect Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Connect Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

## LIVE ANEW: WITH NEW FOCUS

1 JOHN 2:3-11

Rev Adrian Ng

### SERMON SYNOPSIS

- **Mark of a Disciple of Jesus:** In the Christian life, the pattern is simple and decisive: The Lord leads, and we as His disciples, follow. Following Christ is the clear, single-minded focus that shapes our values, and hence, priorities, decisions, and daily habits. This focus is not just for an individual disciple, but more importantly, it is a shared trait of *the whole church* (a community of disciples) to live this pattern – or lifestyle – faithfully and hence, bearing witness to Jesus Christ.

A recent survey of the church in Singapore, albeit among young adults, showed also what the general church regards as *an attractive church*: *Biblical preaching and teaching* that grounds life in God's Word; *Strong community & Deep Relationships* through worship, connect groups, and leadership that models authentic faith; *Culture of Adaptability* that is willing to change methods while keeping doctrine intact; *Empowering our Young* by creating intergenerational spaces for mentoring and leadership development; and *Focus on Outreach and Evangelism* that provides safe, welcoming environment for seekers to explore faith.

- **Test of Discipleship:** Discipleship falters when the church loses our focus. Even the early church in the late first century (c. AD 85) faced distractions, personal conflicts, theological disputes driven by personal agendas, which resulted in a decline in authentic faith and love. Ultimately, our Christian conduct is measured by our obedience to Christ's commands (1 John 2:3-6); our behaviour and love for others are the visible evidence of our relationship with God.
- **Love as the Church's Defining Mission:** Our personal encounter with God as disciples of Jesus transform us to love and this love undergirds our Christian living – in our relationships & in our serving: (1) *Love God* (Scripture and Holiness), (2) *Love One Another* (Authentic Community), (3) *Love the Church* (Service and Sacrificial Giving), and (4) *Love One More* (Missional Outreach). The "DNA of Love" must be the foundation because it is not just about doing *but being*. When we as transformed people model Christ's love, we as Christ's disciples, His Church, live out social holiness and bring God's light into the world (1 John 2:7-11).
- **Transformed People Modelling Christ (TPMC):** As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are *daily* transformed to be more like Him when we commune with Him and abide in Him *daily* (John 15:5). Upon being transformed into Christ's likeness, we will then be able to model Christ's love in our relationships, our life situations and in His Kingdom ministry – in church, Toa Payoh, Singapore and the world. The clear focus is LOVE and the challenge today is for each of us to ask God for His love to come into our hearts & tell Him, "*Count me in to be Transformed People Modelling Christ!*"

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### RELATE

1. How do you know if someone loves you?

### REFLECT

2. To model Christ's love, understanding and experiencing the love which is intrinsic to God's nature is crucial. How does the biblical definition of love (sacrificial, selfless, and eternal) challenge your definition of love?

[Verses to help us go deeper: 1 John 4:7-12; John 13:34-35 ]

### RESPOND

3. Reflect whether the love you extend towards others, especially those who are difficult or "inconvenient," reflect God and His love, or not. Reflect what kind of God would they see. How can you refine your focus on love this week to better reflect God to others (Eg. Family, workplace, neighbours, etc?)

[Verses that may help: Romans 12:9-10]

### PRAYER POINTERS

- Praise God for His everlasting love that endures forever, His abounding grace, and Jesus Christ who walked among us, showing us how to live, love, and obey God.
- Thank God for the gift of His Word, the Scriptures that anchor our souls and reveal His heart and promises. By His Word, we know Him and walk in His truth.
- Pray for yourself, CG members & church members to *intentionally choose each day* to live out our faith in obedience, to demonstrate it in love for others, and to bring change to our communities for the glory of His name.

### SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

"But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

[1 John 2:5-6 NKJV]

### UPCOMING COURSES & EVENTS

Register via [TPMC.ORG.SG](http://TPMC.ORG.SG)

1. Disciple 1: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study, Information Session [Zoom Online on 28 Jan 2026, 7:30pm – 9pm]
2. How to Study the Bible (for beginners) [1 & 8 February 2026, 1pm – 2.30pm]

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