WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

The Reasons We Are Different

Study Guide

New Testament Studies

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

The Reasons We Are Different

Part One of Two

October 27, 2024

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-21 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

The Quality of God's Love

God's love is not just vast in quantity but superior in quality, demonstrated by making sinners His children through Christ's sacrifice.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us' and explains 'manner' (potapos) refers to quality, not quantity.

Adoption as Sons of God

Believers are called 'sons of God' (teknon), indicating an intimate, permanent relationship with God as Father, a gift of grace.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'that we should be called the sons of God' and explains the term 'teknon' expresses bonds of love, trust, and friendship.

Conformity to Christ vs. the World

Believers are commanded to be conformed to Christ (summorphos) and transformed by renewing their minds, not conformed to worldly patterns.

Lecture support: Weaver contrasts Romans 8:29 (conformed to Christ) with Romans 12:2 (not conformed to the world), using the Greek words summorphos and syschematizo.

The World's Misapprehension of Believers

The world does not understand or accept believers because it does not know God, leading to persecution and being considered strange.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not' and cites 1 Peter 4:4 where the world thinks it strange believers do not join in sin.

The Believer's Identity in Christ

Believers are made acceptable and fit for God's kingdom through Christ's work, not their own merit, emphasizing grace.

Lecture support: Weaver explains 'made us meet' (hikanoo) and 'made us accepted' (charitoo) in Colossians 1:12 and Ephesians 1:6.

Key Arguments

God's love is qualitatively superior, not just quantitatively vast.

Weaver argues that 'what manner of love' points to the kind or quality of love, which is best understood through the illustration of Christ's sacrifice.

Lecture support: He says, 'He is talking now about the quality of God's love, not the quantity' and uses 'potapos' to emphasize this.

Believers are made children of God by grace, not works.

The word 'bestowed' (didomi) indicates a gift, and the perfect tense shows its permanent effect; adoption is unearned.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'We did not earn it. We did not merit it. He simply bestowed it.'

The world's rejection of believers stems from its ignorance of God.

Because the world did not know Christ, it cannot recognize or accept those who are conformed to His image.

Lecture support: Weaver cites John 15:18-21 and 1 John 3:1b, 'because it knew him not.'

Persecution is a normal experience for believers.

Jesus promised that as the world hated Him, it will hate His followers; believers should expect slander and misunderstanding.

Lecture support: Weaver references Matthew 10:24-25 and John 15:18-20, and shares personal experiences of being lied about.

Worldly praise should be viewed with caution.

If the world praises believers, it may indicate compromise; Jesus pronounced blessing on those persecuted falsely for His sake.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If the world is praising you and recognizing you and admiring you, something is wrong somewhere' and cites Matthew 5:11-12.

Scripture References

1 John 3:1-3

The primary text of the sermon, emphasizing God's love in making believers His children and the hope of being like Christ.

Romans 8:29

Used to show that believers are predestined to be conformed to the image of Christ.

1 John 4:17

Cited to illustrate that as Christ is, so are believers in this world, giving boldness in judgment.

Romans 12:1-2

Commands believers not to be conformed to the world but transformed by renewing the mind.

1 Peter 1:13-16

Shows the same Greek word for 'fashioning' as in Romans 12:2, urging holiness instead of former lusts.

1 Corinthians 4:7

Asks who makes believers differ, emphasizing that all they have is received from God.

John 20:26-27

Illustrates the meaning of 'behold' as Jesus invites Thomas to see and believe.

Ephesians 3:16-19

Paul's prayer to comprehend the dimensions of Christ's love, showing its vastness.

Luke 1:26-29

Mary ponders 'what manner of salutation' from Gabriel, using the same Greek word 'potapos'.

2 Peter 3:10-11

Asks 'what manner of persons' believers ought to be in light of the coming judgment.

Matthew 8:26-27

Disciples marvel 'what manner of man' Jesus is, using 'potapos' to express astonishment.

1 John 3:16

Shows how we perceive God's love: Christ laid down His life for us.

1 Timothy 3:16

Affirms the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh.

Ephesians 2:1-3

Describes believers' former state as children of wrath, highlighting God's love for sinners.

Romans 5:8

God demonstrates His love by Christ dying for us while we were still sinners.

Colossians 1:12-13

God has made believers meet to share in the inheritance and translated them into Christ's kingdom.

Ephesians 1:5-6

Believers are predestined to adoption and made accepted in the Beloved.

Romans 8:14-17

Believers are led by the Spirit as sons of God, crying 'Abba, Father,' and are joint-heirs with Christ.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

God promises to be a Father to believers, and they shall be His sons and daughters.

Galatians 4:4-6

God sent His Son to redeem, that believers might receive adoption as sons, crying 'Abba, Father.'

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to 'behold' the manner of God's love, and how can we practically do this in our daily lives?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes the word 'behold' as a call to perceive and understand the quality of God's love.

2. How does understanding the difference between the quantity and quality of God's love affect our relationship with Him?

Consider: Weaver distinguishes between the vastness of God's love and its superior quality, using Ephesians 3 and 1 John 3.

3. In what ways does the world's misapprehension of believers manifest today, and how should we respond?

Consider: Weaver discusses how the world thinks believers are strange and speaks evil of them, citing 1 Peter 4:4.

4. Why is it dangerous when the world praises or admires Christians, according to Weaver's application?

Consider: Weaver warns that worldly praise may indicate compromise, referencing Matthew 5:11-12.

5. How does the truth that we are 'sons of God' by adoption shape our identity and daily conduct?

Consider: Weaver explains the term 'teknon' and the intimacy of calling God 'Abba, Father.'

Applications

Expect Misunderstanding and Persecution

Believers should not be surprised when the world lies about, slanders, or misunderstands them, because it did the same to Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'It should be no surprise to us that the world does not love us... We should expect to be lied about.'

Be Wary of Worldly Praise

If the world recognizes and admires believers, something may be wrong; Jesus pronounced blessing on those persecuted for His sake.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If the world is praising you and recognizing you and admiring you, something is wrong somewhere.'

Meditate on the Quality of God's Love

Weaver urges believers to think about the quality of God's love, not just its quantity, especially in making them His children.

Lecture support: He says, 'Think about this week of the quality of God's love and not just the quantity of it.'

Conform to Christ, Not the World

Believers are commanded to be conformed to the image of Christ and transformed by renewing their minds, resisting worldly patterns.

Lecture support: Weaver contrasts Romans 8:29 and Romans 12:2, emphasizing transformation over conformity.

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - The Reasons we are Different

Part Two of Two

April 23, 2025

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-41 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Present Reality of Sonship

Believers are currently the children of God, not just in eternity, and this status demands a life that reflects the Father's character.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes the word 'now' in 1 John 3:2, stating, 'Beloved, right now, in this time, in the present, in time in history, we are the sons of God.'

Future Glorification and Transformation

At Christ's appearing, believers will receive glorified bodies like His and be fully conformed to His image, seeing Him as He is.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is,' and discusses the nature of the resurrection body.

Hope as a Motivator for Purity

The genuine hope of future glory actively purifies believers, leading them to pursue holiness and obedience in the present.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure,' and explains this is a continual, present-tense action.

Obedience as Evidence of Salvation

Christ is the author of eternal salvation to those who obey Him; obedience, though imperfect, is the proof of genuine love and conversion.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Hebrews 5:9 and John 14:15, saying, 'He is not the author of eternal salvation to those who disobey Him.'

Key Arguments

Sonship is a present reality with present responsibilities

Since believers are now God's children, they must manifest His characteristics now, not wait for eternity.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'if we are his children, if we are his sons and daughters, then that means that we must display evidence and manifest the characteristics of his children now in time and in history.'

The glorified body will be physical and recognizable

Jesus' post-resurrection appearances show that glorified bodies are tangible, can eat, and retain personal identity.

Lecture support: Weaver points to Luke 24:39 where Jesus says, 'Handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have,' and the disciples' recognition of Moses and Elijah.

Beholding Christ's glory transforms believers now

Through Scripture and the Spirit, believers are progressively changed into Christ's image as they behold His glory.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes 2 Corinthians 3:18 and uses the illustration of a mirror reflecting light to explain how contemplating the gospel changes us.

Purification is a continual, active duty

The verb 'purifieth' indicates an ongoing, present action; believers must constantly use God's means to pursue holiness.

Lecture support: Weaver notes the Greek present active indicative and says, 'it is something that is continually happening... I have to purify myself by the grace of God.'

Future conformity to God depends on present pursuit of holiness

Without a present pursuit of holiness, one will not see the Lord; holiness now is necessary evidence of salvation.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Matthew Poole and Hebrews 12:14, stating, 'if you're not interested in being holy in this life, well, you're not going to be interested in being holy in the next life.'

Scripture References

1 John 3:1-3

Primary text of the sermon, describing the love of God, sonship, future transformation, and purification.

Ephesians 3:18-19

Paul's prayer that believers may comprehend the dimensions of God's love, referenced to contrast quantitative vs. qualitative love.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

The incompatibility of righteousness with unrighteousness, used to explain the world's misapprehension of believers.

Matthew 5:44-46

Jesus' command to love enemies and be perfect as the Father, illustrating the duty of God's children.

Matthew 10:20

The Spirit of the Father speaking through believers during persecution, showing familial relationship.

Luke 6:36

Command to be merciful as the Father is merciful, another example of reflecting God's character.

2 Corinthians 5:1-9

Description of the earthly body as a tabernacle and the heavenly body as a building from God, supporting the future glorified body.

1 Corinthians 15:35-50

Paul's teaching on the resurrection body, contrasting natural and spiritual bodies, and stating flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom.

John 20:24-29

Thomas's encounter with the risen Christ, demonstrating Jesus' tangible, glorified body.

Luke 24:36-43

Jesus appears to disciples, shows His hands and feet, and eats broiled fish, proving His physical resurrection body.

John 21:7-14

Jesus cooks and eats fish with disciples by the Sea of Galilee, further evidence of His glorified body's capabilities.

Revelation 22:2

The tree of life bearing twelve fruits monthly, indicating eating in the eternal state.

Matthew 17:1-5

The Transfiguration, where Peter recognized Moses and Elijah, showing we will know each other in glory.

1 Corinthians 13:12

Now we see dimly, but then face to face; we shall know fully even as we are known.

Romans 8:29

Predestination to be conformed to the image of Christ, the purpose of salvation.

Philippians 3:21

Christ will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body.

John 17:24

Jesus' prayer that believers may behold His glory, requiring a glorified body.

1 Peter 1:8

Believers love Christ without seeing Him, rejoicing with joy unspeakable; seeing Him will be greater.

2 Corinthians 3:18

Beholding the glory of the Lord transforms believers into His image from glory to glory.

1 John 2:6

Whoever abides in Christ ought to walk as He walked, emphasizing imitation of Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean that believers are 'now' the sons of God, and how should this present reality affect our daily lives?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes the present tense of sonship in 1 John 3:2, arguing it demands present evidence of God's character.

2. How does the hope of seeing Christ as He is motivate you to pursue personal holiness?

Consider: The sermon's main application is that the hope of future glory purifies believers in the present.

3. In what ways can we 'behold the glory of the Lord' today, and how does that transform us?

Consider: Weaver discusses 2 Corinthians 3:18 and the mirror illustration, emphasizing Scripture and the Spirit's role in transformation.

4. Why is obedience described as the evidence of eternal salvation, and how does this align with salvation by grace through faith?

Consider: Weaver cites Hebrews 5:9 to argue that Christ is the author of salvation to those who obey, raising the relationship between faith and works.

5. What does it mean to 'purify yourself' as a believer, and what practical steps can you take to do this continually?

Consider: The sermon explains purification as an ongoing, active duty using God's means like prayer, Scripture, and fellowship.

Applications

Live as God's child now

Recognize your present identity as a son or daughter of God and intentionally display His characteristics in your conduct.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'if we are his children... we must display evidence and manifest the characteristics of his children now in time and in history.'

Pursue holiness through beholding Christ

Regularly engage with Scripture and prayer to behold Christ's glory, allowing the Spirit to transform you into His image.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'if we want to be pure and holy and change more and more into his image, we need to behold him and his truth in his word.'

Continually purify yourself

Make purification a daily, ongoing practice by confessing sin, renewing your mind, and using God's appointed means of grace.

Lecture support: Weaver notes the present active indicative verb 'purifieth' means 'it is something that is continually happening.'

Obey God as proof of love

Demonstrate your love for Christ and the genuineness of your hope by keeping His commandments and striving for obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The proof that we love him, the proof that we are in him, the proof that we are genuinely converted... is that we're obedient.'

Examine your hope

Evaluate whether your hope in Christ is strong enough to drive you to mortify sin and walk pleasing to the Lord.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'Is your hope strong enough, biblical enough and godly enough to drive you to mortify the deeds of the flesh?'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: The Reasons We Are Different - Part One of Two

Lecture JW00077

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00077&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - The Reasons we are Different - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01782

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01782&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.