

New Hearts, New Life, New Love

Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 15:1-11; John 14:15-21 ▪ December 21, 2025 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

New Hearts: The People of God need new _____ that _____ they are God's children. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

New Life: Jesus _____ us to experience that new life by _____ in Him. (John 15:1-11)

New Love: The Spirit _____ these new affections through His _____ presence.
(John 14:15-21)

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (ESV)

John 15:1-11

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.

Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (ESV)

John 14:15-21

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What are some things you're looking forward to over the coming week? What makes those special to you?

Read & Discuss: Jeremiah 31:31–34

1. In verse 32, God contrasts the New Covenant with the one made at Sinai, which the people broke. What do you think is the fundamental difference between a law written on tablets of stone and a law written on the heart (v. 33)? How does this internal change help undo the curse of human rebellion?

Read & Discuss: John 15:1–11

2. Jesus identifies Himself as the "true vine" and us as the "branches." Under the curse, humanity is spiritually separated from God and dying. How does the imagery of abiding in the vine illustrate the "New Life" we are given? What are the practical signs that a person is successfully abiding in Christ?
3. Jesus says that apart from Him, we can do nothing (v. 5). In your daily life, how can you tell the difference between doing things in your own strength versus doing things through the strength of Jesus?

Read & Discuss: John 14:15–21

4. Jesus promises "another Helper"—the Spirit of Truth—to be with us forever (v. 16). Why is the presence of the Holy Spirit essential for us to experience "New Love" (the desire to keep His commandments)?
5. Looking at verse 21, Jesus links our love for Him with our obedience to His commandments. How does the "New Love" empowered by the Spirit differ from a mere "to-do list" of religious rules? How has the Spirit continued to grow your motivation for following Christ since you first believed?
6. Christmas can be one of the loneliest times of the year for many. How is the promise that we are "not orphans" an encouragement to you? How does this change the way we look out for others in our community who might feel lonely or abandoned?

Apply: What is one specific way you can abide in Jesus this Christmas to allow His strength to flow through you?

Pray: Pray that as we celebrate Christ's birth, we would be overwhelmed by the reality that He did not just come to be *with* us, but to live *in* us. Ask God to help our church family live as a community of people with "New Hearts" who are defined by "New Life" and "New Love."