

Small Group Study

Our Vision

To know God and enjoy Him forever.

Our Mission

To build a Christian community by making fully devoted disciples of non-religious and nominally religious people

Discussion

Freedom in Christ: Who Am I?

Scripture

Have volunteers read the following scriptures: Galatians 2:17-21, Ephesians 4:22-24, and Colossians 3:1-17.

Questions

1. Notice in verses 1-4 in the scripture we just read from Colossians the interplay between salvation past, present, and future. Since we will live eternally with God, what does He want us to value the most?
2. It makes sense to value eternal things over worldly things, doesn't it? Read verses 5-11 from the passage in Colossians again. What are the fruit of the old nature?
3. Also, did you notice the contrast between the old self and the new self? Putting off the old self is synonymous with putting it to death. The old self is the part of us that is continually trying to pull us back into sinful habits and thought patterns. The lure of the old self can be powerful, especially when our memories remind us of the pleasures of past sin. What are some suggestions you would give someone for "putting off the old self"? How have *you* put off your old self?
4. Read verses 12-17 again from Colossians 3. In verse 12 how does Paul refer to Christians? What virtues should we "wear"?
5. What is special about the virtue of love (vs. 14)?



Ice Breaker

Use ONE of the questions to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. What are 3 words that would best describe you?
2. What are 3 ways in which you are different from the person you were 5, 10, or 20 years ago?
3. What are 1 or 2 things you would like to be said about you at your funeral?

6. What can we learn from verses 15-17?

7. As we live according to the new nature we are, by faith, having Jesus live His life through us. The power of sin is broken! We can choose to be filled with His Spirit and live a life pleasing to God. As we do, His fruit will be evident in us -- leading us to love others with the eternal love of Christ. What are some steps we can take to cultivate a life-long habit of walking in the power and presence and fullness of the Holy Spirit?

8. Here are some suggestions:

1. Our old nature is powerless on its own to overcome our character defects!
2. The life of Christ in us is the only way to overcome our character problems!
3. To walk in His Spirit, we must continually walk in total dependence and surrender to His Lordship.
4. We must be quick to confess the exact nature of our sins to ourself, God (1John 1:9), and another person (James 5:16).
5. Sincerely ask God to change you in areas of character weakness.
6. If you've hurt anyone by past mistakes, go to them and seek forgiveness where appropriate and make restitution whenever necessary.
7. Daily renew your mind through His Word, prayer, and worship, and sincerely desire to know and do God's will.
8. Seek to have the love of Christ flow through you as you take opportunities to help others.
9. Choose to live in community with other brothers and sisters in Christ with whom you can "spur one another on to good deeds".

Can you think of any more?

God bless,

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