

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 2, 2011

Passage: Various

Memory Passage: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) During the next two weeks we will be examining the Scripture passages that support our church covenant (as well as a few other passages). My sermons will address these passages, the wording that makes up the covenant, and its implications for body life at BCC. Our covenant is divided into four sections, so we will look at two this week and two next week. You can find our Church Covenant online here: <http://www.cabotbible.com/ChurchMembership.htm>

(b) What is a covenant? Why do you think we have one as a church? What parties are involved in this covenant? Are you prepared to enter into this covenant with these parties?

(c) **Read 2 Pet. 3:17-18.** What is the context of these verses? How does this context affect our application of these verses?

(d) What kinds of “error(s) of lawless people” might cause us to “loose our own stability?” How does “grow(ing) in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ” help us to keep our stability? How does this affect our relationship with each other in the body?

(e) *Family:* I really don’t know what to write special for families this week ☹ and with a very short week I think I will let all of the other questions stand and let you creative dads work them into your family devotions. Cop out? Maybe, but the only thing running less than my creativity today is my time to be creative!

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 2 Tim. 3:16-17.** What Scripture is included in Paul’s words, “All Scripture?” Why is Paul’s claim that Scripture is “breathed out by God” important to us? What effect does it have on our view of Scripture?

(b) Write a definition of each of the four activities for which Scripture is profitable. What differences are there between these four activities? Similarities?

(c) Our covenant states that we are “to strive for growth in one’s Christian life.” How does 2 Tim. 3:16-17 help us to accomplish this?

(d) Why do we need to covenant together to accomplish this? How does living in community with each other help accomplish this task? Can one do it individually, without the involvement of other believers? Why or why not?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Our covenant states that we are “to conduct oneself in daily living so as to honor Christ, walking uprightly in the world as a Christian example and seeking to share the Gospel with others.” We spent much time in our recent study of Col. 4:2-6 on this theme, so take a moment to write down what you learned through our study of these verses.

(b) What ways did God convict you as you studied Col. 4:2-6? Have you carried through with the changes in your life that the Holy Spirit prompted through this study? How will you implement these changes in the coming weeks? How will covenanting with other believers help you to be strong in the areas of living a life that honors Christ and is an example to others of the power of Christ? How will you help others with whom you have covenanted to be strong in these areas?

(c) **Read 1 Cor. 10:31.** Describe this verse as you would to a new believer, and explain how you accomplish it in your own life.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Eph. 4:1-3.** Our covenant states we are, “to cultivate a fellowship of Christian unity, being slow to take offense and quick to seek reconciliation.” In Eph. 4:3 Paul reminds us we are to be eager to maintain the unity of the faith. What is this unity we seek? How do we cultivate it? Why do you think it is important for us to covenant together in community to accomplish this?

(b) Consider your interaction with other members of BCC during the past weeks. Would God consider your attitude (not just your words, but also including your words) to be humble? Gentle? Patient? Longsuffering (bearing with them)? Were there times that you were silent with people who were hurting, or non-caring with people who needed care? Would these lack of engagements be considered humble, gentle, patient or longsuffering?

(c) Can a person live obedient to the commands found in Eph. 4:1-3 without pursuing intimate, selfless, other-centered relationships in our body? Are you pursuing these types of relationships?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Col. 3:13.** We have covered this verse in recent weeks, so let's look at it from a corporate perspective since we are considering our covenant promise to one another. How can we as a body of Christ facilitate a better understanding and practice of forgiving one another? What is our role in the lives of other believers who are holding grudges? How can we better "cultivate a fellowship of Christian unity" in this area of forgiveness?
- (b) What is the relationship between forgiveness and reconciliation? Can reconciliation happen without forgiveness? Does forgiving someone require one to pursue reconciliation? What Scripture passage(s) would you use to back up your answer?
- (c) Read Rom. 1:29, 2 Cor. 12:20, & 1 Tim. 5:13. One of the most prominent ways the unity in a body can be destroyed is by gossip. What do these passages tell us about gossip? What constitutes gossip (in other words, what is, and what is not, gossip)?
- (d) **Now Read Eph. 4: 29.** How can the truths in this verse guide your decisions concerning what to say to others and what not to say?

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) What are your thoughts on church membership? Are you for it? Against it? Why? Do the Scriptures teach anything about church membership? What Scriptures influence your opinion?

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BCC Covenant Part I