

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 4, 2010

Passage: Colossians 1:18-20

Memory Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:19 (children may memorize the first two sections of this verse if a shorter version is necessary)

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Col. 1:15-20.** Think back on your study last week of vs. 15-17. Summarize in your own words this content.
- (b) Recall at least one application from vs. 15-17 presented to you in your green sheet study or the sermon. What steps have you taken to implement this application? What fruit has been produced in your life as a result of this obedience?
- (c) Read 1 Cor. 12:12-27. This is one of several passages of Scripture in which Paul uses the “body” metaphor for the church. Write down the 3 truths from these verses that strike you as the most amazing, or that the Holy Spirit has revealed to you in a new way.
- (d) Now choose one of these 3 truths & write down several implications this truth has for your life today. You might be tempted to skip over this question, but DON’T DO IT! ☺ Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in applying this truth to your life!
- (e) *Family:* Prepare beforehand enough pre-cut paper body parts for each family member to be able to make a full paper doll with: 1 body (torso), 1 head, 2 legs, 2 arms, 2 eyes, 2 ears, 2 hands, 1 nose, 1 mouth & 2 feet (so a family of 5 would need 5 torsos, 5 heads, 10 legs, etc). Keep the bodies (torsos) separate & combine all the body parts in one bowl or container. Give a torso to each person, and then pass out 15 random body parts to each person and have them assemble their paper doll on a flat surface. Ask: “What is wrong with your doll? What tasks would your doll have difficulty doing with its current body if it were a real person? Is this the way you would have placed the parts of the body together if it was your job to create them to function properly? Now, fix your dolls by trading your extra parts for parts you need from others.” **Read 1 Cor. 1:12-18** and explain the spiritual metaphor of the body of Christ functioning properly as the church using the object lessons of the paper dolls.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 4:12-15.** Describe the content of these verses by writing a 6 word title (remember the sermon illustration from last week?). What is the main purpose of the body according to these verses?
- (b) **Read Col. 1:18.** What does Paul mean in Col. 1:18 when He calls Christ the “head of the body” (see Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25 for help)?
- (c) Describe the relationship between the 3 statements about Christ found in Col. 1:18 (“head of the body,” “beginning, that is, the firstborn from the dead,” & “will come to have 1st place in everything”). If you would like some help, check out Gen. 49:3 & 1 Cor. 15:20-23.
- (d) Write down as many aspects of your life as you can think of (family, job, money, recreation, hobbies, schoolwork, etc.). How does the phrase “(Christ) will come to have first place in everything” affect your thinking & acting in each aspect that you listed? (This is the discussion question *for families* as well, but I did not want everyone else to be tempted to skip over it ☺)

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Col. 1:19 & 2:9.** What does Paul mean when he says “all the fullness dwells in (Christ)?” What does this tell us about the person of Christ?
- (b) From what you know about the Colossians’ context, why was this important for them to know?
- (c) Given your own context, why is this important for you to know? How does this help you live “in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel” (Col. 1:23).
- (d) *Family:* Read **Col. 1:19 & 2:9.** After explaining words like “deity” & “dwell” ask: “Since every part of the glory & character (fullness) of God (deity) is always present (dwells) in Jesus, what does that make Jesus? Why is this important?” (read and teach Matthew 9:1-8 to help them understand the answer to this).

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Using a dictionary, look up the word “reconcile” and write down what you learn.

(b) Read Col. 1:20 and answer the following questions: Through whom are we reconciled? To whom are we reconciled? How are we reconciled? What is the extent of this reconciliation?

(c) **Read Rom. 8:19-25.** What does Paul mean when he writes “creation was subjected to futility” (see Gen. 3:16-19; Eccl. 1:14 for insight)? What did creation do to have this happen? For what does creation long?

(d) Write down what you think are 3 or 4 of the most beautiful and/or majestic and/or glorious parts of God’s creation. Now take a moment to consider how they will be even more majestic, glorious and beautiful after God’s plan for reconciling men & women to Himself is complete. (*For families*, use this exercise to spark discussion concerning God’s creation reflecting His glory and imagining how even more glorious it will be when redemption/reconciliation is complete).

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 5:9-11 & 2 Cor. 5:18-20.** Make a list of what you learn about reconciliation from these verses.

(b) What does being an “ambassador for Christ” (2 Cor. 5:20) entail (make sure you take your description from 2 Cor. 5:18-20). Are you fully fulfilling your role as an ambassador for Christ? If not, how will you begin today?

(c) How often do you “exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:11) for your reconciliation? Write a psalm of praise, a prayer, or a song/verse that expresses your rejoicing in Christ for your free gift of reconciliation.

(d) *Family:* Recall a time when a relationship in your family was broken (or tell a hypothetical story of a relationship being broken, like one family member lying to another so that trust between them is broken). Ask: “What has caused this broken relationship (sin): What must happen to repair this relationship (forgive sin and repent of sin)?” **Read 2 Cor. 5:18-20** and explain what it means to be reconciled to God illustrating as needed from the broken relationship story you just discussed.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 1:19 & Rom. 8:31-32.** Think for a moment about what you have learned this week about God reconciling you to Himself in Christ. Now meditate on the fact that God did all this “freely” (Rom. 8:32) and it was His “good pleasure” (Col: 1:19). What emotions rise to the surface as you contemplate this fact? What is your reaction to what God has done in Christ?

(b) Christ “made peace through the blood of His cross (Col. 1:20). What peace was made and between whom? What was Paul’s purpose in mentioning “the blood?” About what does this reference cause you to think?

(c) After reviewing what you have learned this week, write down at least 2 ways that these truths will change your thoughts and/or actions this week.

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*The Supremacy of Christ Part II:
Christ is the Supreme Reconciler*