



Small Group Discussion Guide

Not in a group? Email us at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com

Ice Breakers: If you could ask 1 person just one question, and they would answer honestly, what would you ask them and who would you ask?

Instructions: If your group meets bi-weekly, complete questions 2 & 4 this week.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-6. Pastor Tom mentions that Paul isn't talking about criminal cases that Christians are arguing about. What disputes does Paul urge members of the church to decide amongst themselves? How is Paul's advice still relevant today? Do you believe it is possible for the church to do this today? What difficulties might we encounter? What are the rewards for following Paul's advice?
2. Pastor Tom said, "Without the perspective that comes from a transforming personal relationship with Jesus that changes our thinking and priorities, we will tend to exaggerate the eternally unimportant and ignore the eternally essential." How do we discern between the "eternally unimportant" and "the eternally essential?" How does the Holy Spirit help us make this distinction? Why is it so important for us to make this distinction? How does Paul's instruction in Romans 12:1-2 help us do this?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 1:25. What does the Bible say about human wisdom? Why do we need to rely on God's wisdom and strength and not our own? Read 1 Corinthians 6:6-8. What kind of wisdom do these verses describe? How do we live a life that relies on God's wisdom and strength? What would that look like in our lives today?
4. Pastor Tom said, "What God is doing is creating in His Church a counter-culture to the prevailing culture . . . a culture that is being formed for the future." Why is it important for the Church to be a counter-culture? What is the message the church has for the prevailing culture? Read the verses Pastor Tom provided in this section: 2 Corinthians 4:4; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11. What does the "culture that is being formed for the future," look like? How could this affect the way we live our lives? How does that affect the way we interact with the prevailing culture?

Have you checked out the Personal Guide?

Each week we have a Personal Guide available for you to use to learn more about the message of the week by studying additional scriptures outside of your small group.

You can find them weekly at

www.myriversidechurch.com/smallgroups.



"FAMILY COURT"

JANUARY 17TH, 2016

Message Notes & Discussion Guide



“Family Court”

[Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

MESSAGE NOTES

- How do we engage the culture without _____ the gospel?
- How do we deal with the reality that the same culture, which often _____ us and angers us, has also left its _____ in our lives that we bring with us into Jesus' Church?

Note Stretch Us: 2015 series

Still Stretching: An Unexpected Journey, Part 1—March 15, 2015

Still Stretching: An Unexpected Journey, Part 2—March 22, 2015

Note Romans 13:3-4 and Acts 16

In I Corinthians 6, the issue Paul talks to the Corinthian believers about isn't about _____ cases that required the intervention of the state, but something that could be handled without courts.

1. Loving L _____

The law courts were a “primary entertainment and a _____ to Greeks...every Greek man was more or less a lawyer and spent much time deciding and listening to law cases...Greek society was notorious for their _____ of going to law.” (Barclay)

Note I Corinthians 6:1

“disputes” = _____ court cases (*note I Corinthians 6:7c*)

At this stage of history, the Roman Empire allowed Jews (an approved religion) to _____ property disputes.

At this time, Christ-followers were viewed by the Roman government as a _____ of Judaism, so they had the same rights to settle these matters without going to the Roman authorities.

2. D _____ Perspective

Without the perspective that comes from a transforming personal relationship with Jesus that changes our thinking and priorities, we will tend to exaggerate the eternally unimportant and ignore the eternally _____.

Note I Corinthians 6:2 and Matthew 19:27-28

Note I Corinthians 6:3 and I Peter 1:12—we will judge angels (we'll explain the _____ of salvation to good angels and judge rebellious angels).

Note I Corinthians 6:4-5

The same Christ-followers who in the first 2 chapters of I Corinthians seem to be boasting and r _____ on human wisdom (*note I Corinthians 1:25*) can't find anyone in the church wise enough to help them settle comparatively t _____, earthly issues (*note I Corinthians 12*).

When the imprint of the culture dominates our lives, we'll be b _____ from resources God has given us through the Holy Spirit; and the result is a double-barreled _____ (*note I Corinthians 6:6-8*).

3. Why Does This Matter So Much?

What God is doing is creating in His _____ a counter-culture to the prevailing culture...a culture that is being formed for the f _____.

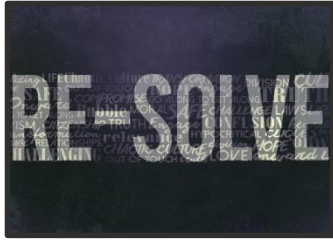
“The Greco-Roman culture was d _____, by the standards of virtually any time period, and Paul addressed such seemingly penny-ante matters as cutting in line at the Lord's Supper and believers suing one another. Who cares about lawsuits over business dealings in a culture filled with _____ anarchy, human trafficking, and imperial militarization? It mattered because the church as an _____ of the kingdom was projecting a message that wasn't true: Jesus is incompetent to govern the world (*I Corinthians 6:2*)...When they went before the outside world, those with no standing in the church, they betrayed that they didn't understand what the church is...They had f _____ who they were.” (Moore)

Note II Corinthians 4:4; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11

With resolve let's “re-solve” to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- So if the church simply lives out life and _____ and responds just like the opposing culture...
- ...if we're self-centered, me-obsessed, and approach life just like the imprint of the culture on our lives, then we're “already d _____”.
- Let's not _____ that we find this life to be more real than the life Jesus died for us to have and that He's preparing us to eternally receive and experience.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Family Court”

[Sr Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

- How do we engage the culture without losing the gospel?
- How do we deal with the reality that the same culture which often scares us and angers us has also left its imprint in our lives that we bring with us into the Jesus' Church?

Note *Stretch Us: 2015 series*

Note Romans 13:3-4 and Acts 16

In 1 Corinthians 6, the issue Paul talks to the Corinthian believers about isn't about criminal cases that required the intervention of the state, but something that could be handled without courts.

1. Loving Litigation

The law courts were a “primary entertainment and amusement to Greeks...every Greek man was more or less a lawyer and spent much time deciding the listening to law cases...Greek society was notorious for their love of going to law.” (Barclay)

Note 1 Corinthians 6:1

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At this stage of history, the Roman Empire allowed Jews (an approved religion) to settle property disputes.

At this time, Christ-followers were viewed by the Romans government as a sect of Judaism, so they had the same rights to settle these matters without going to the Roman authorities.

2. Defective Perspective

Without the perspective that comes from a transforming personal relationship with Jesus that changes our thinking and priorities, we will tend to exaggerate the eternally unimportant and ignore the eternally essential.

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Note 1 Corinthians 6:3 and 1 Peter 1:12 – we will judge angels (we'll explain the wonder of salvation to good angels and judge rebellious angels).

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The same Christ-followers who in the first 2 chapters of 1 Corinthians seem to be boasting and relying on human wisdom (note 1 Corinthians 1:25) can't find anyone in the church wise enough to help them settle comparatively trivial, earthly issues (note 1 Corinthians 12).

When the imprint of the culture dominates our lives, we'll be blinded from resources God has given us through the Holy Spirit; and the result is a double-barreled defeat (note 1 Corinthians 6:6-8).

3. Why Does This Matter So Much?

What God is doing is creating in His Church a counter-culture to the prevailing culture...a culture that is being formed for the future.

"The Greco-Roman culture was decadent, by the standards of virtually any time period, and Paul addressed such seemingly penny-ante matters as cutting in line at the Lord's Supper and believers suing one another. Who cares about lawsuits over business dealings in a culture filled with sexual anarchy, human trafficking, and imperial militarization? It mattered because the church as an embassy of the kingdom was projecting a message that wasn't true: Jesus is incompetent to govern the world (1 Corinthians 6:2)...When they went before the outside world, those with no standing in the church, they betrayed that they didn't understand what the church is...They had forgotten who they were." (Moore)

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With resolve let's "re-solve" to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- So if the church simply lives out life and reacts and responds just like the opposing culture...
- ...if we're self-centered, me-obsessed, and approach life just like the imprint of the culture on our lives, then we're "already defeated".
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