



Ice Breakers: Hand each member a small piece of paper & have them write down one unusual fact about themselves that the group does not know. Have the host read each out loud; discuss & guess who belongs to each unusual fact.

1. Pastor Chip reiterated Pastor Tom's words that "we are no longer in a culture that is predominantly Christian. We are a post-Christian society." What do you find most challenging about this reality? Are there any positives? Have you experienced ridicule or discrimination as a Christ-follower? How did you handle it? Do you wish you had done something differently? What was the outcome?
2. In 1 Corinthians 5, Paul is addressing a serious sexual sin that was being tolerated in the church at Corinth. Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5. Why did Paul come down on the church so hard for putting up with this man's sin? What damage might occur if the church continued to allow this man to stay in their fellowship? Does it surprise you that this was happening in the church when it was not a culturally acceptable practice (see 1 Cor. 5: 1)? How so?
3. Pastor Chip indicated that Paul seems "concerned with the church's response to sin more than he is with the particular sin." Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-13. How was this sin like the yeast Paul describes? Have you experienced hypocrisy within the church? How did it impact your faith? What makes authentic faith contagious?
4. Pastor Chip stated that "We need to stop acting like we're perfect, because the culture around us already knows it's not true." Have you experienced a time when you knew you poorly reflected Christ to a non-believer? What was the outcome? Read 2 Corinthians 2:4-11. How are we to treat believers whose sin affects the Body? Pastor Chip explained that Paul's intent is to love both the non-believer outside the church as well as the believing sinner. Which do you find easier to do? Why do you think that's the case? What is the goal for caring for and loving both?

As you wrap up your group time, share what you find most challenging about having genuine, authentic faith that becomes contagious, then pray for one another that God will show you how to reach people around you both individually and as a group, shining light into the darkness of the culture in which we live.

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"RATIONALIZING SIN"

JANUARY 24TH, 2016

Message Notes & Discussion Guide



“Rationalizing Sin”

[Children’s Pastor, Chip Garrison]

MESSAGE NOTES

As Pastor Tom has been saying over and over again, we are no longer in a culture that is predominantly Christian. We are a post-Christian society.

I Corinthians 5:1-4 NIV

I Corinthians 5:5 NIV “...so that his spirit (the man who has sinned), may be saved on the day of the Lord.”

The purpose was redemption, not execution.

This is so important that Paul addresses it later in his next letter in II Corinthians 2.

II Corinthians 2:5-8 NIV

The church is not, nor will it ever be in the sin police business.

II Corinthians 2:4 NIV

They are literally losing the opportunity to engage the culture.

I Corinthians 5:6-7a NIV

It seems Paul is concerned with the church’s response to sin more than he is the particular sin.

Sinners are supposed to sin.

II Thessalonians 2:12 NIV

Hebrews 11:25 NIV

I Corinthians 5:9-10 NIV

I Corinthians 5:11 NIV

How can we impact the culture around us if we don’t honestly deal with our own sin first?

I Corinthians 5:12-13 NIV

The way we treat our own sin, affects our culture’s ability to hear God’s answer for their sin.

We need to stop acting like we’re perfect, because the culture around us already knows it’s not true.

II Corinthians 2:4-8 (partial)

Deuteronomy 7:3a NIV

Romans 12:2a NIV

It is so easy to allow the culture to impact us, to change us, to change what we think is right vs. what is wrong.

Matthew 7:3 NIV

We will never impact our culture with the message of Christ if we are not first examining our own lives for the authenticity of that same message.

II Corinthians 12:21 NIV

It all comes down to authentic spirituality.

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!