



Small Group Discussion Guide

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

Ice Breaker: What is the strangest food you've ever tried? What did you think of it?

Instructions: If your group meets bi weekly, answer questions 1 & 4.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 8. Pastor Tom explained that the "food fights" in Corinth became a divisive issue. What does Paul tell us about food in verse 8? Have you experienced a time where something "small" became a bigger, divisive issue between believers? What was the outcome? Pastor Tom indicated that being "weak" or "strong" refers to knowledge and conscience, and there is nothing sinful about being either "weak" or "strong." How does this insight help you understand the issues you've experienced?
2. As Pastor Tom clarified the real issue, he said the "problem was not a lack of knowledge but a lack of love." Read Romans 14:1-3. How should believers in Corinth demonstrate love toward one another based on these verses? Pastor Tom stated that "when the glory of God and the expansion of His Kingdom is our motive, personal rights lose their importance." How is this idea counter-cultural? What implications does this have for your life?
3. As Pastor Tom described Paul's answers to the Corinthian church's questions, he quoted Mare: *"The exercise of one's personal freedom is to be governed by whether it will bring glory to God, whether it will build up the church of God and whether it will encourage the unsaved to receive Christ as Savior and Lord."* Have you been tempted to exercise your personal freedom on an issue, but known it would be detrimental the other believers in your life? What happened as a result? Is there an opportunity for you to grow in this area?
4. When we don't demonstrate love on disputable matters, we look like the rest of the world. What impact might we have on an unbelieving world if we regularly showed love and navigated differences in healthy ways? Pastor Tom encouraged us that if we are "weak," we should grow in knowledge and maturity; if "strong," be patient, not causing others to stumble nor be snared in our pride. How might your small group be a great place to begin this process? What steps could you take together at this time?

Save the Date!

The Art of Marriage Workshop is coming Friday, April 22nd and Saturday, April 23rd. Plan now to attend!

Registration & additional info at

www.myriversidechurch.com/workshop



MESSAGE NOTES & DISCUSSION GUIDE

"Food Fight" - Week of March 13th, 2016



“Food Fight!”

[Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen]

MESSAGE NOTES

...the _____ way we engage the culture without losing the gospel is by demonstrating a counter-culture reality as followers of Jesus that is primarily expressed in relationships (with God and others).

Jesus is creating in His Church a counter-culture to the _____ culture...

Note I Corinthians 8:1a

Why were 1st century Jesus followers having “food fights”, what does this have to do with _____, and how will this help us to engage the culture without losing the gospel?

1. Why Were There “Food Fights” in Corinth?

- A. _____ temples
- B. Private _____
- C. P_____ markets

The issue of _____ meat became divisive...

Note I Corinthians 8:9-10

“Weak” and “strong” refers to knowledge and c_____.

Nothing _____ about being either “weak” or “strong”.

Note Romans 14:1-3

Problem was not a lack of knowledge but a lack of _____.

2. Knowledge vs. _____ (note I Corinthians 8:1-3)

Note Acts 15:29 and I Corinthians 8:4-7

The “strong” are to _____ their superior knowledge because a “weak” brother can be damaged by this knowledge (note I Corinthians 8:10-12).

To _____ a fellow believer this way demonstrates a lack of love and it offends Jesus Himself.

Note I Corinthians 8:13

Note I Corinthians 9:1-6, 11-15, 19, 22b-23

When the glory of God and the expansion of His Kingdom is our _____, personal rights lose their importance.

Note I Corinthians 10:1-12

Nothing in this life should be so important to a Christian that he is unwilling to give it up if the law of _____ so demands. (Wagner)

3. Understanding “Strong” and “Weak” Are _____

Paul gives 3 separate answers for 3 different situations:

- A. Temple—_____ eat the meat...(Note I Corinthians 10:14, 18-21)
- B. Butcher shop—not a matter of _____ (note I Corinthians 10:25-26).
- C. Private home—no issue raised, go ahead and _____ (note I Corinthians 10:27). But if you’re told it’s idol meat, then _____ for the sake of others (note I Corinthians 10:28-30).

Whether we are “weak” or “strong” Christ-followers, if our _____ is one of grasping for our way and our rights, then we’ve got the Christian life all wrong.

The _____ of one’s personal freedom is to be governed by whether it will bring glory to God, whether it will build up the church of God and whether it will encourage the unsaved to receive Christ as Savior and Lord. (Mare—note I Corinthians 10:31-33)

“When we allow God to “Re-New” us personally and as a church, we will be able to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- Too often an unbelieving world looks at Jesus’ Church and sees us arguing with each other about “d_____ matters” (Romans 14:1) and it looks just like the rest of the world.
- But when an unbelieving world sees Christ-followers loving each other and preferring each other and navigating differences in healthy ways, that’s _____ and allows us to engage the culture without losing the gospel.
- If you are “weak” - _____ in knowledge and maturity.
- If you are “strong”—be patient with the weak; don’t cause them to stumble; and be careful of the _____ of pride.
- Note I Corinthians 11:1
- May our lives be a reflection of the truth of I Corinthians 10:31!

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!



"Food Fight!"

[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

...the main way we engage the culture without losing the gospel is by demonstrating a counter-culture reality as followers of Jesus that is primarily expressed in relationships (with God and others).

Jesus is creating in His Church a counter-culture to the prevailing culture

Note 1 Corinthians 8:1a

Why were 1st century Jesus followers having "food fights", what does this have to do with us today, and how will this help us to engage the culture without losing the gospel?

1. Why Were There "Food Fights" in Corinth?

- A. Idol temples
- B. Private homes
- C. Public markets

The issue of idol meat became divisive

Note 1 Corinthians 8:9-10

"Weak" and "strong" refers to knowledge and conscience.
Nothing sinful about being either "weak" or "strong".

Note Romans 14:1-3

Problem was not a lack of knowledge but a lack of love.

2. Knowledge vs. Love (note 1 Corinthians 8:1-3)

Note Acts 15:29 and 1 Corinthians 8:4-7

The "strong" are to temper their superior knowledge because a "weak" brother can be damaged by this knowledge (note 1 Corinthians 8:10-12).

To affect a fellow believer this way demonstrates a lack of love and it offends Jesus Himself.

Note 1 Corinthians 8:13

Note 1 Corinthians 9:1-6, 11-15, 19, 22b-23

When the glory of God and the expansion of His Kingdom is our motive, personal rights lose their importance.

Note 1 Corinthians 10:1-12

Nothing in this life should be so important to a Christian that he is unwilling to give it up if the law of love so demands. (Wagner)

3. Understanding "Strong" and "Weak" Are Family

Paul gives 3 separate answers for 3 different situations:

- A. Temple don't eat the meat (note 1 Corinthians 10:14, 18-21)

- B. Butcher shop not a matter of concern (note 1 Corinthians 10:25-26).
- C. Private home no issue raised, go ahead and eat (note 1 Corinthians 10:27). But if you're told it's idol meat, then abstain for the sake of others (note 1 Corinthians 10:28-30).

Whether we are "weak" or "strong" Christ-followers, if our attitude is one of grasping for our way and our rights, then we've got the Christian life all wrong.

The exercise of one's personal freedom is to be governed by whether it will bring glory to God, whether it will build up the church of God and whether it will encourage the unsaved to receive Christ as Savior and Lord. (Mare note 1 Corinthians 10:31-33)

When we allow God to "Re-New" us personally and as a church we will be able to engage the culture without losing the gospel:

- Too often an unbelieving world looks at Jesus' Church and sees us arguing with each other about "disputable matters" (Romans 14:1) and it looks just like the rest of the world.
- But when an unbelieving world sees Christ-followers loving each other and preferring each other and navigating differences in healthy ways, that's compelling and allows us to engage the culture without losing the gospel.
- If you are "weak" grow in knowledge and maturity.
- If you are "strong" be patient with the weak; don't cause them to stumble; and be careful of the snare of pride.
- Note 1 Corinthians 11:1
- May our lives be a reflection of the truth of 1 Corinthians 10:31!

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