

Small Group Discussion Questions

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

Ice Breaker: Go around the room and have each person share something that makes them different from anyone in the group, like, "I've never left the state I was born in" or "I am one of ten kids."

Talk It Over Together: *(Note: If your group is only meeting bi-weekly, **cover the first 2 discussion questions of each week**. If time allows, go back to the remaining questions.)*

1. Pastor Tom stated that as we put our faith and trust in Jesus we become a new creation in Christ. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. We are no longer bound by our past. How does our enemy try to keep us from living in this reality? What does it look like to live in this truth on a daily basis?
2. Read Colossians 2:13-15, Galatians 2:20 and Romans 6:6-7, 18, 22. Pastor Tom taught us that "being 'in Christ'" means we share in the amazing victory Jesus secured at the cross ... sin's rule over us is shattered...we're now free to allow the Holy Spirit to transform us and conform us to resemble Jesus more and more..." Describe a time when you truly felt victorious against sin's power and control. What allowed you to see victory in this area? How might you continue to live in victory? Is there an area where Christ's victory needs to be applied/realized in your life?
3. Pastor Tom reminded us that the power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work through us as Christ-followers. Read and discuss Ephesians 1:18-20, 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 and Romans 8:11. How do these passages impact your view of death? How do they impact your view of life right now?
4. Read and discuss Ephesians 1:19b-23, Philippians 2:10-11 and Ephesians 2:6-7. Because we are already seated in "heavenly places," in spiritual warfare we cannot lose. Is this truth something new to your understanding of being united with Christ? How might this change the way we view difficulty? How would living in this truth change your daily life?

Personal Reading

As you read through each passage, consider answering 3 simple questions:
What did I learn about God from what I read? What did I learn about myself?
What is God asking me to do as a result?

Day 1: Ephesians 1 & 2

Day 3: Ephesians 5 & 6

Day 2: Ephesians 3 & 4

Day 4: Romans 8 and 1 Corinthians 15



KEEP CALM

"KEEP CALM AND BE UNITED"

SENIOR PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

JULY 27TH, 2014





"Keep Calm and Be United"

July 27, 2014

By Senior 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

Note Ephesians 6:12

The father of _____ is ultimately a bully who is bigger, stronger, and tougher than you or me.

We need to be c _____ to Someone stronger than this spiritual bully.

Note Colossians 1:27

Over _____ times in Ephesians we're told that we're "in Christ".

- Romans 8:1—no condemnation
- Romans 8: _____ - freedom from the law of sin and death
- Romans 8: _____ - spirit made alive because of righteousness and promise of resurrection
- Romans 8:14-16—made children of God
- Romans 8:17—heirs of God and _____ - heirs with Christ
- Romans 8: _____ - more than conquerors
- Romans 8:38-39—inseparable _____ of God...

We are:

1. _____ Creations in Christ (note II Corinthians 5:17)

Satan's two-fold strategy (Carty):

- Keep non-believers from believing.
- Keep Christ-followers powerless in _____.

By putting our faith and _____ in Jesus and what He did by dying on the cross and rising from the dead, we are placed "in Christ".

This truth not only demolishes the evil one's strategy of keeping non-believers from believing, but also sets us free from any accusations that the "accuser of the brothers" would use about our _____ life that could hinder our relationship with God and our effectiveness in serving the Lord.

2. Victorious Through the _____ of Christ (note Colossians 2:13-15)

Note Hebrews 2:14-15

Being "in Christ" means we share in the amazing victory Jesus s _____ at the cross (note Galatians 2:20 and Romans 6:6-7).

Through our union with Jesus and His cross, sin's rule over us is shattered, our "old" (sinful) nature was crucified, and we're now free to allow the Holy Spirit to transform us and conform us to _____ Jesus more and more (note Romans 6:18, 22).

3. _____ Through Christ's Resurrection

Jesus' victory at the cross is c _____ by His resurrection.

Note Romans 6:8, 11-12

The _____ that raised Jesus from the dead is at work through us as Christ-followers (note Ephesians 1:18-20).

Being "in Christ's" resurrection means that _____ death...isn't the end (note Romans 8:11; I Corinthians 15:54-57).

4. _____ in the Heavenly Realms in Christ

Note Ephesians 1:19b-23

The _____ of Jesus Christ is total. "...He rules over all for the sake of His _____." (Liefeld)

Note Ephesians 2:6 - we are _____ with Jesus, in His place of absolute power, authority, and honor, elevated to the highest place, above all powers, rulers, and authorities.

We are there...because of the kindness and _____ of God (note Ephesians 2:7).

Note Philippians 2:10-11 and Ephesians 6:10

We can "Keep Calm" because:

- In spiritual warfare, if we try to defeat sin and Satan by ourselves, we cannot _____.
- But by being "in Christ", united in His Person, His work, His power, and His authority, we cannot _____, for Jesus has already triumphed!
- The victorious life is not necessarily the " _____ life", but it is the only life worth living.

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!



RIVERSIDE NOTES

Sermon: **“Keep Calm and Be United”**

Series: ***Keep Calm***

Note Ephesians 6:12

The father of lies is ultimately a bully who is bigger, stronger, and tougher than you or me.

We need to be connected to Someone stronger than this spiritual bully.

Note Colossians 1:27

Over 40 times in Ephesians we’re told that we’re “in Christ”.

- Romans 8:1 – no condemnation
- Romans 8:2 – freedom from the law of sin and death
- Romans 8:10 – spirit made alive because of righteousness and promise of resurrection
- Romans 8:14-16 – made children of God
- Romans 8:17 – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ
- Romans 8:37 – more than conquerors
- Romans 8:38-39 – inseparable love of God...

We are:

1. New Creations in Christ (note 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Satan’s two-fold strategy (Carty):

- Keep non-believers from believing.
- Keep Christ-followers powerless in sin.

By putting our faith and trust in Jesus and what He did by dying on the cross and rising from the dead, we are placed “in Christ”.

This truth not only demolishes the evil one’s strategy of keeping non-believers from believing, but also sets us free from any accusations of the “accuser of the brothers” would use about our past life that could hinder our relationship with God and our effectiveness in serving the Lord.

2. Victorious Through the Cross of Christ (note Colossians 2:13-15)

Note Hebrews 2:14-15

Being “in Christ” means we share in the amazing victory Jesus secured at the cross (note Galatians 2:20 and Romans 6:6-7).

Through our union with Jesus and His cross, sin’s rule over us is shattered, our “old” (sinful) nature was crucified, and we’re now free to allow the Holy Spirit to transform us and conform us to resemble Jesus more and more (note Romans 6:18, 22).

3. Alive Through Christ’s Resurrection

**Jesus’ victory at the cross is confirmed by His resurrection.
Note Romans 6:8, 11-12**

The power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work through us as Christ-followers (note Ephesians 1:18-20).

Being “in Christ’s” resurrection means that physical death...isn’t the end (note Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57).

4. Seated in the Heavenly Realms in Christ

Note Ephesians 1:19b-23

The rule of Jesus Christ is total. “...He rules over all for the sake of His church.” (Liefeld)

Note Ephesians 2:6 – we are seated with Jesus, in His place of absolute power, authority, and honor, elevated to the highest place, above all powers, rulers, and authorities.

We are there...because of the kindness and grace of God (note Ephesians 2:7).

Note Philippians 2:10-11 and Ephesians 6:10

We can “Keep Calm” because:

- In spiritual warfare, if we try to defeat sin and Satan by ourselves, we cannot win.
- But by being “in Christ”, united in His Person, His work, His power, and His authority, we cannot lose, for Jesus has already triumphed!
- The victorious life is not necessarily the “easy life”, but it is the only life worth living.

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!