

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

For May 16, 2021 sermon:

1 Corinthians: "This should be neither easy or fun"

Warm up: (Questions for discussion)

- What has shaped your understanding of God's holiness the most?
- Have you ever been a part of a church where you saw church discipline in action? Was that a positive or negative experience for you to see and why?
- What cultural value changes make us hesitant to challenge someone's behavior?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. Read 1 John 1:5-10 then answer the following questions:

- What does it mean that "God is light, there is no darkness in Him at all"?
- How does a believer "walk in the light"?
- The passage says that walking in the light improves our fellowship with other believers. How does it do that?
- There is a big warning against denying/hiding our sin. Why?

2. It is very common for people to say, when they see what might be a sin issue in another believer, "That's between them and God." Is it? What happens to that person and to the Body of Christ if we choose to adopt that attitude long-term? Read/discuss: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Ephesians 5:8-16 Hebrews 10:24-25 Galatians 6:1-2

3. Because the consequences of sin are rarely immediate, it is easy for someone to think that they "got away with something" and either God missed it, or didn't care. The consequence does come though, in many different ways. What do the following passages tell us about God and His dealing with sin (and how we should deal with it)? Galatians 6:7-8 Joshua 7:1-12 Isaiah 59:1-4 Matthew 5:27-30

4. I've never met anyone who enjoyed mourning. We encourage sad people to "cheer up" and mourning people to "get over it". This tendency to not feel deeply bad about things carries over in our attitude about how we feel when we sin. Yes, confession brings God's promise of forgiveness, but that doesn't mean we should avoid reflecting on how our sin grieves God and what it cost Him to forgive it. Read and discuss: Isaiah 53:4-6 James 4:7-10 2 Corinthians 7:10-11

Apply it: (10 minutes)

Frank Sinatra famously sang about living his life the way HE wanted to ("I did it my way!") If we're honest, we all fall into the trap of living the Christian life "our way". We find that "sweet spot" where we are comfortable and we're not ruffling any else's feathers. That is NOT what we are called to. I challenge you to live a life of true holiness...to not settle for simply being "better than most". Pray for each other, that your life will be truly pleasing to God and without excuse or compromise.