

MARCH 20, 2022
LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
SIN TOLERANT
1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-13
WINTER QUARTER WEEK 10 OF 13

Getting to Know Each Other Better

- 1. Name an artist or musician or singer everybody loves but with whom you just aren't impressed. Why?**

You probably won't know this band, but one of mine is REM from the 1980s.

Renewed by Grace/Equipped as Disciples

Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

A few thoughts before you get to the notes.

1. The questions are very open-ended this week.
2. They are because there is so much to talk about in the passage that I decided it best not to focus the discussion on any particular area or thing.
3. Rather, we will let people share how God is speaking to them through the Word.
4. I write discussion questions and not study questions. The goal is always to discuss the message.
5. A core philosophy of mine is that our job as Life Group leaders is to create space for God to work.
6. Sometimes that means we ask specific questions and guide discussion to a direct end, and sometimes that means we ask very broad questions and see where the thing goes.
7. This week we will see where the thing goes.
8. One of your functions as leader is to try and get everyone involved in discussion. These open-ended questions make that a lot easier.
9. Please at least make the attempt to get everyone to share.
10. You don't necessarily have to go around in a circle, having everyone answer Question Two and then having everyone answer Question Three.
11. You can ask someone Question Two to launch the conversation, and then ask if there are others who feel the same way? Then you can ask everyone, "Why?" and you can lead an interactive discussion about question two. (You might even ask if there are others who feel differently about it than the way the discussion seems to be going, and then you can ask them, "Why?")
12. Then you can do the same with Question Three.
13. Or you can go around and have everyone share their answers and their reasons.
14. There is more to discuss in this text than you will have time for. Therefore, I think the best approach is to ask the questions and see where the Lord takes it in the time you've set aside for discussion.
15. Try to leave ample time for Question Four.
16. Here are some of the highlights from the message, which should help with Question Two and Three.
 - a. Sin is a predator. If we don't rule over it, it will rule over us. (Genesis 4:6-7)
 - b. One of the ways we get stuck and have a failure to launch, is when we fail to address sin. When sin grows, life shrinks!
 - c. Tolerance of sin dishonors God and destroys lives and community.
 - d. Sometimes we tolerate sin because we can't imagine another way, or we're lazy, or ignorant, and sometimes because our hearts are hard... but every time we tolerate sin, it robs us of life.
 - e. Your attitude about sin MATTERS.

- f. The Enemy would love to TWIST this passage to whisper that lie into your ear, “they should kick you out... you don’t belong here... you’ll never add up... you’re not good enough.”
- g. Let’s cut that lie off at the pass and acknowledge the situation Paul’s writing to. It’s specific, but there is a general principle: Respond to sin with grief, not celebration.
- h. We grieve sin because it kills some of the good we were created for.
- i. God is the ultimate judge, but we have to be discerning and protect the health of the community.
- j. When we allow sin to go unchecked, we damage ourselves and eventually destroy the church.
- k. Church discipline is intended to be restorative, not punitive.
- l. Confront sin with intentionality, not ignorance.
- m. John Owen captured it well when he wrote, “... be killing sin or it will be killing you.”
- n. Because intentionality is so important, Paul is teaching that the most loving thing you can do is confront someone caught in sin.
- o. This whole idea of “kick the person out” MUST be nuanced with other things we know to be true about the community of believers and of those in Christ.
- p. It doesn’t take a whole lot to ruin the whole thing. The impact of sin is not solely individual, it’s communal.
- q. Understand that grace frees us from sin, it’s not an excuse to sin.
- r. Focus on sin inside the church, not in society.
- s. The church is not called to judge the world because they don’t have the same standards we do. We love people and lead them to Jesus. Then we create a safe place where they can grow and flourish.
- t. A church pursuing purity is a church poised for potency.
- u. David Prior wrote, “The world is waiting to see a church which takes sin seriously, which enjoys forgiveness fully, which in its time of gathering together combines joyful celebration with an awesome sense of God’s immensity and authority.”

2. In thinking about the passage and message in their entirety, what are some of the more helpful things you learned or of which you were reminded? Why?

Since there are no theological issues which I feel need to be addressed, I won’t take the time to respond to this question. I’ll share my responses with my group on Wednesday night.

3. In thinking about the passage and message in their entirety, what are some of the more challenging things you learned or of which you were reminded? Why?

Since there are no theological issues which I feel need to be addressed, I won’t take the time to respond to this question. I’ll share my responses with my group on Wednesday night.

4. As a result of this message, how do you see yourself responding to sin in your life and in the lives of others? About the same? A little differently? A lot differently? Why?

I need some time to think about this.

Sent in Love

5. What is one way you will apply the text this week?