

MAY 22, 2022
LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
CIRCUMSTANTIAL CALLING
1 CORINTHIANS 7:17-24
SPRING QUARTER WEEK 4 OF 7

Getting to Know Each Other Better

1. What “old person” things do you do?

- Talk to myself.
- Find that certain, new technology is uninteresting or just not useful.
- Have skepticism about some of the new technology that people say, “You’ve got to adopt this because you can’t live without it.” (i.e. crypto)
- Find that I appreciate “simple” over “complicated.”
- Prefer that very few people know about my “business,” and I don’t care that much about whether or not anybody knows what I’m doing. The people who I want to know, know.
- Prefer to pay with cash so that my financial transactions can’t be traced as much.
- Don’t concern myself with things “too wonderful for me” or with needless controversies or gossip.
- Think, “What’s worked and is working probably doesn’t need to be changed in order to keep working.”
- How about you?

Renewed by Grace/Equipped as Disciples

Read 1 Corinthians 7:10-16

I think Ryan’s points are very discussable this week, so I’ve decided to have the questions center around them. I will give you additional insight from his manuscript or from myself to help with the conversation. You’re going to have to read and pray through all of this and decide what the Lord wants you to focus on in the discussion. Not sure you can get to all of it. Not sure you should even try!

2. The point was made that “Your current circumstances are God’s divine calling.” What do you find helpful about this truth? Why? What do you find difficult about this truth? Why?

- Paul’s charge is to stay in the soil you were in when you were called because God wants you to flourish there, not somewhere else.
 - “Whatever God has made your position, or your work, abide in that, unless you are quite sure that he calls you to something else. Let your first care be to glorify God to the utmost of your power where you are. Fill your present sphere to his praise, and if he needs you in another he will show it to you.” - Charles Spurgeon
 - Additional Discussion Questions -
 - What do you think about this idea?
 - Is there soil you’d rather get out of?
 - What is it?
 - Why do you want out?
 - What has God been teaching you through it?
- Paul is calling you to accept that no life circumstance can prevent you from being a disciple.
 - The situations we most want to change are often the circumstances that catalyze growth.

- We often pray that God will get us out, but it turns out that his plan is not to get us out, but his promise is to get us through.
- Additional Discussion Questions -
 - Do you have any life circumstances that you feel prevent you from being a disciple? Why?
 - If you do not have any, then do you have any that you feel make it more difficult to be a disciple? Why?
 - What does it mean for you to be a disciple in these more difficult life circumstances?
 - How are you experiencing God getting you through rather than getting you out?

(Your group may know each other very well, and may know how others in the group will respond. I get that. Still, there is value in talking about it. You just never know what new information might come out. Since the circumstances are always changing in some way, and since God is always at work, there is most likely fresh information and data to talk about. Also, you might want to ask questions that direct people to think about how the ever-changing nature of their circumstances might affect their discipleship. For instance, sometimes the waiting process affects our discipleship in that, the longer we have to wait, the more likely it is that our faith will be tested or that some other area of our discipleship will be tested or revealed to us as an area for growth. Life is not static and so that always presents opportunities and challenges for growth.)

3. The points were made that Paul wants you to “Concentrate on your spiritual identity instead of your social standing” and that “The Savior with you is more important than the situation before you.” Given where you are in life right now, how are these two truths helpful? Why? How are they challenging? Why?

The key words in this question are “Given where you are in life right now.” Like I wrote above, it is the dynamic element of life that makes the Scripture and discipleship challenging on the one hand and exciting on the other. Even if there are microscopic changes in our lives, there are still things which are always changing and these new circumstances impact how we see God, the Bible and the call to follow Christ.

CONCENTRATE ON YOUR SPIRITUAL IDENTITY INSTEAD OF YOUR SOCIAL STANDING

- Paul is teaching us not to obsess over our circumstances, but he’s not asking us to ignore them either.
- His specific command here is “don’t be concerned about it.” (v. 21) That could be translated as “don’t let it become an object of care or anxiety. Don’t let it become an obsession.”
- Maybe those who were free needed to be reminded that they were slaves to Christ; and those who were slaves needed to be reminded that they were truly free.
- “The freest person in the world is the man or woman who lives life as a slave of Christ!” - Sam Storms
- This is the paradox of Christianity - we are most free when we fully are surrendered.
- And that means that we trust God with our circumstances too.
- That surrender is death to the “grass is greener” lie; it’s death to the “if onlys” that we hope on; it’s the end of believing that if our circumstances changed that we would

change with them; and it's the conviction that we can become disciples of Jesus right where we are!

- Dwell deeply on the glory of being called children of God. Know your place as his beloved, and to all allow that to replace all the other idols that we cling so tightly to.
- Given where you are in life right now, how is this truth helpful? Why? How is it challenging? Why?

THE SAVIOR WITH YOU IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SITUATION BEFORE YOU

- Even if your circumstances remain unchanged, your internal world could be completely reordered - because now you have intimacy "with God."
- He is with you right where you are, right as you are, right NOW!
- You don't need to go anywhere else to follow him fully, you only need to fully surrender to his love right where you are today.
- Given where you are in life right now, how is this truth helpful? Why? How is it challenging? Why?

Sent in Love

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

It would be nice if the application were around the idea of "faith expressing itself through love." This is the "commandment of God" that we are called to obey.