

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022
LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
SPIRIT EMBODIED
1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31
FALL QUARTER WEEK 3 OF 12

Getting to Know Each Other Better

1. What is the earliest thing you remember about your life?

The memory dates to me being about two years old. I remember our house in Upland, CA and I remember our neighbor's boxer (which seemed very big to a two year old) and that's about it. It's very fuzzy but I know it happened.

How about you?

Renewed by Grace/Equipped as Disciples

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

This week's questions will focus on the lies we believe which prevent unity in the midst of our diversity of gifts, talents and abilities. We will talk about the lies Ryan presented, as well as the biblical truths we must believe in order to combat and refute them. Some of those biblical truths will come from the message, some might come from my mind and some might come from your and your group's mind. We want to discuss the lie, identify and embrace the truth, and experience growth through all of that. So this is where we are going. We won't talk about the nuts and bolts of the gifts. We won't talk about what has ceased. Those conversations are probably coming in two weeks. As you wrap up your discussion of this passage, your group will have an opportunity to share how they are serving the body with their gifts and/or how they would like to. Overall, it should be a good week.

God's desire is for His people to live in the unity and harmony He intends. However, two lies have presented themselves. These are lies we sometimes believe and these are lies which hinder "oneness." The next few questions are designed to allow you to discuss and displace them with truth.

2. What is the first lie Pastor Ryan talked about? What are some components of it? To what degree do you struggle/have you struggled with it? Why? What biblical truths combat this lie? Why?

The first lie Pastor Ryan talked about which prevents us from being one body is the lie of I do not belong.

There are two main components of it:

- Comparison
- Competition

Now is the time to ask, "To what degree do you struggle with/have you struggled with it?"

- I would like you to ask this question as it relates to the lie
- I would like you to ask this question as it relates to the two main components
- So you might ask people something along the lines of, "To what degree do you struggle/have you struggled with the lie of 'I do not belong?' Why? Which of the two main components do you struggle/have you struggled with? Why?"

What biblical truths combat this lie?

- Ryan listed these:

- 1 Corinthians 12:14-16, “14 For the body is not one part, but many. 15 If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any less a part of the body.”
 - Just because the foot and the ear believe things to be true of them doesn’t make them true. Reality needs to be greater than perception. When we are tempted/when we do believe this lie, we need to tell ourselves the truth that we are part of the body and that we are not a lesser part of the body simply because we might feel like we are. We have to preach to ourselves the truth of these three verses until we believe it.
 - Another strategy is to live out these three verses until we believe them. If we act like we believe them to be true, eventually we will actually believe them to be true. Don’t wait for the belief and the feelings to come. Act and the belief and feelings may follow.
- 1 Corinthians 12:18, “18 But now God has arranged the parts, each one of them in the body, just as He desired.”
 - It is so important to tell ourselves the truth that we are exactly who God has created us to be and we should be glad about that! We should rejoice in that! We do not have to try to be someone we are not. That is actually offensive to God Himself. We also do not have to compare ourselves to people we are not, or even to others who are like us. We simply need to be us and be confident that we are us because that is who He wanted us to be.
 - This is very, very freeing once a person “gets it.” There are few things better than knowing who you are, being content and even happy about that, and then living it out in everyday life. So much joy. So much freedom. So much ability to bring glory to God.
- What else might your group list as being helpful? Why? (It seems like having a good handle on verses 14-17 will go a long way in bringing truth to the lies we believe about whether or not we belong and about the need to compare and/or compete with others for our worth. Our worth is in the fact that “God has arranged the parts, each one of them in the body, just as He desired.” That is glorious truth right there. We are who we are because God desired it. And others are who they are because God desired it.)

You may want to wrap this question by asking if anyone has any further insights or comments to share before you move on.

3. What is the second lie Pastor Ryan talked about? What are some components of it? To what degree do you struggle/have you struggled with it? Why? What biblical truths combat this lie? Why?

The second lie Pastor Ryan talked about which prevents us from being one body is the lie of you do not belong.

What are some components of it? While he didn’t list any (like he did with the first lie), here are some I thought of:

- Pride

- Self-sufficiency
- Biblical illiteracy
- Fear
- A desire for control
- What else would you add?

To what degree do you struggle with this? Why?

What biblical truths combat this lie? Why?

- For this one, I think it's the same truths as for Question 2
- But maybe the group will think of others, as well?
- The main thing seems to be that people have a strong conviction that others are who they are because that is who God created them to be and that they better not denigrate, cheapen or lessen another's value or place (because to do so is to denigrate, devalue and displace someone God made with great intention).
- There is also Ephesians 2:10, "10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."
 - Do we really want to tell someone that they don't belong when God has created and gifted them to do some things that He really needs done?
 - We should think very carefully before we adopt that posture.
- What else might your group list as being helpful? Why?

You may want to wrap this question by asking if anyone has any further insights or comments to share before you move on.

- 4. Re-read verse 28. God has given something to everyone, so that all might contribute. What are the ways you are contributing to the body right now? Are there new things you are wanting to do? What are they? How can your group help you launch them? How can the church help you?** I don't mean for this question to guilt those who aren't serving or using their gifts. I do mean for it to challenge them. And I would say that most gifts can be used *at least* in a Life Group setting (sure, there are some that cannot).

For those who aren't serving or using their gifts, the greater question is, "How would you like to?" And, "How can your group and/or the church help you?" (I liked that Ryan said, "Hey, you don't have to wait for the church to sort of approve of your ministry or what you want to do. Just go and do it. Let us know so we can pray for you, support you if possible and celebrate with you, but by all means please do not sit around and wait for our approval." This is completely accurate and reflective of our church. We have many who are out there doing things with their giftings that we do not even know about. And that is the way it should be with some things, right!)

Sent in Love

- 5. How can your group pray for you this week?**