

small things BIG DIFFERENCE

Week 7

Life Group Notes

Process (what has been taught) - 20 minutes

Read Ephesians 2 together. Paul's main argument is:

1. We have been saved from sin (1-10)
 2. We have been saved from solitude (11-18)
 3. Jesus is bringing all together to Him (19-22)
- What is God seeking to produce in his people? (A: He intends us to be people who are moving toward each other in community).
 - What is the effect of the "blood of Christ" (v13)?
 - What was the purpose of the death of Jesus?
 - What did Jesus abolish? Why might this be a particularly important thing for the Gentile readers?
 - Summarise Paul's description of the church in verse 19-22

What do you think of this statement: "We can't become the Christians we are meant to be by being along with God. This is not God's intent. What we become, we become together"

- In what ways do you think this is true of your own life?

Prepare (for godliness) - 20 minutes

In this week's talk we discussed the "throne of individualism". One of the things that fuels this throne is both consumerism and isolation. Consider this depiction of the effects of individualism, consumerism and isolation:



Consumerism seeks to curb the negative feelings of isolation; we spend increasing amounts of money in an attempt to feel better. However, the more we are obsessed about applying consumerism as a solution to our loneliness, the more it feeds the individualism mind-set. It's a vicious cycle. How does the gospel break this cycle?

How much does your life currently allow you to develop relationships that are deep enough to help you grow and change?

What are some common obstacles that hinder relationships? Consider the following list and ask yourself if any of them apply to you:

- The busyness of life, keeping relationships distant and casual.
- A total immersion in friendships that are activity-and happiness-based.
- A conscious avoidance of close relationships as too scary or messy.
- A formal commitment to church activities, with no real connection to people.
- One-way, ministry-driven friendships in which you always minister to others, but never allow others to minister to you.
- Self-centered, "meet my felt needs" relationships that keep you always receiving, but seldom giving.
- A private, independent, "just me and God" approach to the Christian life.
- Theology as a replacement for relationship. Knowing God as a life of study, rather than the pursuit of God and his people.

As a group, list some ways that you will commit to build relationships with other church members this week. Be specific.

Practice (of godliness) - 20 minutes

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-18, noticing the connection between Christ's death and resurrection (v16), the absence of class distinctions (v16) us being a new creation (v 17), and the appeal for reconciliation (in all it's forms) (v18).

- Triangulate 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 and discuss what is true about God, what is true about ourselves, and what should be our correct faith response.

Pray (for godliness) - 15 minutes

Use this time to pray for one other.