

life together

SMALL GROUP
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Main point from Sunday's sermon:

Our sufficiency comes fully and finally from God alone, through Christ, not our pride, performance, or power. Now let's RECAP:

Re-Read

Re-read 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:18. As you do, highlight what you think are the key sentences or phrases. You'll come back to those as you evaluate the main point of the passage shortly.

Evaluate

Using the key statements, sentences, or phrases you highlighted, determine as a group what you think the big idea is.

The main points from Sunday's sermon were:
Our sufficiency from God through Christ means:
1. Sincere submission (2:12-17)
2. Steadfast satisfaction (3:1-11)
3. Serious sanctification (3:12-18)

Spend a few minutes connecting the text and the main points. Where in the text do you see the above statements and points?

Citations from the Church

"Die before you die; there's no chance after," C.S. Lewis.

What do you think Clive means here? What does it mean to die before you die? Explain the urgency if the implications of this quote are true.

"Only the grace of God is kind enough and the power of God strong enough to achieve this transformation in our broken and darkened lives," Paul Barnett.

What are your thoughts on this quote? Why does it matter that the grace and power are God's and not ours? How does this gospel reminder motivate you toward godliness and holiness?

Application or Advancing the Gospel

What are some examples of self-sufficiency in your life that are most difficult for you to overcome? Why do you think that's the case?

What are your thoughts about the statement: "To reject Christ brings death; to believe brings life?" In a pluralistic culture, how does this claim of exclusivity cut across people's lives? How do you respond to their claims of inequity/unfairness?

In 2:14-17 Paul says that we are the aroma of Christ. The call for us then is to simply open up our lives and let others smell Christ! V17 seems to indicate the way we do that is by speaking. Why don't we? Why don't you?

Read 3:12 and then explain how and why we are to be "very bold?" List as many examples as you can come up with that our boldness would be manifested by/in (prayer, missions, etc.).

The goal of our transformation is to reflect Christ (3:18) and be changed into His image. How do we do that? List as many ways as you can.

Praise

And can it be that I should gain, an int'rest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be, That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me? Amazing love! How can it be That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay, Fast bound in sin and nature's night; Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

"And Can It Be That I Should Gain" by C. Wesley