

LIFE
TOGETHER
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pride and Humility

1 Corinthians 3.18 - 4.7

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share plans for future Community Group gatherings and the following happening in the life of the church:

- **MEN'S SUMMIT Friday, October 6th 6:30-7:30a** | Gentlemen...join other guys from New City on Friday, October 6th from 6:30-7:30a @ the church building for a time of singing, teaching, discussion, and prayer. (And coffee and donuts.) *We are aiming to meet the first Friday of each month this year for these men's summits and in October we'll talk more about how you can get connected to a smaller group of guys for encouragement, support, camaraderie, and spurring one other toward love and good deeds.*
- **WOMEN'S RETREAT October 20th & 21st** | Ladies, join the women of New City for a weekend of fellowship, fun, prayer, and teaching at the annual New City Women's Retreat! Guest speaker Melissa Bush will be sharing about how we are woven together in Christ. The cost for the retreat is \$65, which includes a shared room and three meals (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and Saturday lunch). For those that need it, you also have the option of attending Saturday only. The Saturday only cost is \$30 and includes Saturday lunch. Please register online by October 7. Visit the City for more information and to register.

Talk briefly about your group's format and schedule for the semester.

We believe that people experience and grow in their faith when they spend time reflecting on God's Word, and also hearing from other Christians. That's what we're hoping for tonight.

OPENING PRAYER

Open your group in prayer. Pray extemporaneously, or use this prayer:

Father, help us to seek what is good and true and beautiful. Give us love for each other and for our city. Give us eyes to see you and ears to hear you. Use our group tonight/today to make us more into the people you want us to be.

OPENER

Especially in the early weeks, taking time to introduce yourselves and getting to know each other is important. Open by asking folks to **introduce themselves**: *name, hometown, where you live in Cincinnati, what you do during the day.*

Then ask, *What was your first job?*

STUDY/DISCUSSION

Our series this fall is called "Life Together." We'll be working our way through the first 10 chapters of 1 Corinthians. This past Sunday Josh preached from 1 Corinthians 3:18 - 4:7.

1. **Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-4.** What is the situation in Corinth? What problem is Paul trying to correct? Have you ever seen anything similar happen in churches today?
2. **Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-15.** What does this passage teach us about mission? What reasons are there for confidence? for humility?
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.** Note that the pronouns are plural here, referring to the church. Based on these verses, why does Paul take unity in the church so seriously? What are some practical things we can do to contribute to unity, rather than division?
4. **Read 1 Corinthians 3:18 - 4:7.** Now we're into the part Josh preached on this Sunday. What is it that underlies the Corinthians divisiveness and lack of harmony?
5. What does it mean to be "puffed up"?
6. What kind of things are you tempted to fill the emptiness in your soul with? (relationships, work, money, sex, etc)
7. Focus on 4:3-4. How does Paul see his identity? What can we learn from this?
8. Paraphrasing C.S. Lewis - "True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it's thinking of yourself less." Have you ever met a truly self-forgetful person? What were they like?
9. Read through the Handout on the next page. Do any of the readings help flesh out the meaning of 1 Corinthians 3-4 for you?
10. What's one thing you'd like to apply to your life this week?

PRAYER:

Spend some time together in prayer. In the early weeks, this can be a challenge for a group just getting to know one another. You may elect to just lead the group in a closing prayer, pray together as a large group, or break into smaller groups to pray. You can share requests, or simply pray about the things you discussed tonight.

HANDOUT

As former pagans, they brought to the Christian faith a Hellenistic worldview and attitude towards ethical behavior. Although they were the Christian church in Corinth, an inordinate amount of Corinth was still in them, emerging in a number of attitudes and behaviors that required radical surgery without killing the patient. That's what this letter tries to do. (Gordon Fee, commentary on 1 Corinthians)

Spiritual pride is the illusion that we are competent to run our own lives, achieve our own sense of self-worth, and find a purpose big enough to give us meaning in life without God. (paraphrasing Soren Kierkegaard, *Sickness Unto Death*)

Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next person. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others. If everyone else became equally rich, or clever, or good-looking there would be nothing to be proud about. (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call 'humble' nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all. (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Paul, Romans 8.1)

For those who are in Christ Jesus, the trial is over. We feel like we're on trial everyday - that's why we boast, or why we beat ourselves up. But if you're in Jesus, the verdict is in. You don't have to go into the courtroom because he went into the courtroom. He stood trial. And it was a miscarriage of justice, but he did it for you. Like like a lamb to the slaughter he was beaten and mocked and handed over to death. If the verdict is in, then you don't have to boast anymore. You don't have to puff yourself up, because you have what you need. You have a verdict from God. You have an identity - child of God. You have a purpose - to serve him wherever he puts you. In other words, you're not puffed up, you're filled up. You're not trying to fill the empty spot because it's been filled up with Jesus. (from Sunday's sermon)