

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS - 5/21/17

WARM-UP: If you could have more of ONE thing (not money), what would it be? Why?

RECAP: This was week 3 in our series "Settling For Less", and the main point was that, **"SEEKING JESUS BRINGS TRUE FULFILLMENT"**. In our world we are surrounded and enticed by so many other things and other ways to have fulfillment. A lot of those are good things in life and we should have fulfillment in. But it can become problematic when we seek fulfillment beyond what God has designed. Essentially, that's sin. And we see in our culture that when we engage in sin regularly it can lead to addiction. Though not all of us are "addicted", we can find ourselves repeatedly distracted, and that can leave us unfulfilled as well. And that's how we settle for less in fulfillment.

1. What are your initial thoughts from Sunday's sermon? Did anything stick out to you?
2. In what ways do YOU 'settle for less' in the way of fulfillment?

READ 1 JOHN 2:15-17 "Do not love **the world** or anything in **the world**. If anyone loves **the world**, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in **the world** —the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from **the world**. 17 **The world** and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." **When John says "the world", He's not talking about the global earth, but the community of sinful humanity that is united in rebellion against God.**

1. What in the way of the world's sin and rebellion against God concerns you the most? What do you find to be the most disturbing things in the world?

READ COLOSSIANS 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive through **philosophy** and **empty deception**, according to the tradition of men, according to the **elementary principles of the world**, rather than according to Christ." **This philosophy that threatened the Colossian Christians was a strange mix of early Gnosticism (Gnostics believe anything done in the body, even the grossest sin, has no meaning because real life exists in the spirit realm only), Greek philosophy, and Jewish mysticism. The philosophy threatening the Colossian Christians was so dangerous because it was not obviously sinful, but that deception could open up the Christian man and woman to all sorts of sin.**

1. Are you or have you ever experienced that type of "deception" in your life? How did that effect our faith? How does that effect your **FULFILLMENT** in Christ?
2. What are the **"ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD"** today, and how that can lead to greater sin, addiction, etc.?

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"No man knows how bad he is until he has tried to be good." (C.S. Lewis)

READ ROMANS 7:15-17 WHERE PAUL SEEMS TO RAMBLE ABOUT HIS PERSONAL INWARD BATTLE WITH SIN "15 For what I am doing, **I do not understand**; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. 16 But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me."

1. How would you summarize or title this passage? What do you think the main point is?
2. How does this passage make you feel about your faith? What sort of things do you find to be a struggle?

NOW SHIFTING GEARS READ THE WHOLE CHAPTER OF PSALM 23 "1 The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

1. **One big challenge Sunday in an effort to have fulfillment in Christ is to understand WHO Christ is in our lives.** What is the most encouraging thing for you in this beautiful picture of the Lord being our shepherd?

APPLICATION:

1. What changes can you make to have a Godly amount of fulfillment in life?
2. What changes can you make to have a Godly amount of fulfillment in Christ?

CLOSE IN PRAYER: As you close in prayer be encouraged to share ANYTHING you desire prayer for, as well as anything specifically relating to today's discussion.

THINGS YOU SHOULD DO:

Together-We-Seek → Wednesday mornings @ 7am in the Commons @ F.W.
God is good and our attendance is growing... SO... park far sit near for our guests ☺