

GABC Small Group Discussion Questions

May 23rd 2018

Ephesians 4:17-32

1. 4:17 tells us that we must change the way we live our lives.
 - a. What does it mean to walk in futility?
 - i. What are some things you do on a regular basis that feel futile?
 - b. What does verse 18 mean by darkened in understanding?
 - i. Is there any way to know truth apart from Christ?
 - c. Paul says that the ignorance in those apart from Christ is due to a hardness of heart.
 - i. What are some reasons people refuse to hear the gospel?
2. Verse 19 tells us that a callousness describes the heart of those without God.
 - a. How do you develop callouses?
 - i. What do they do for your feeling?
 - ii. This describes someone who commits an act with no care about the consequences.
 1. What are some ways we see this in the lives of those who do not have Christ?
 - a. Can we find ourselves in the same situation?
 - b. What's the difference between giving yourself up to sin and struggling with sin?
 - c. What does it mean to pursue pleasure with greed?
 - i. Is there ever a time where it becomes enough?
3. Verses 20-24 tell us how to not have the mind of the gentiles.
 - a. Paul compares this to taking off clothes when he says take off the old man.
 - i. Does this help you better picture what it looks like to stop walking the way you used to and begin to live in a new way in Christ?
 - b. He also says that the old man is being destroyed by deceitful desires.
 - i. How is sin deceitful?
 - c. How can you renew your mind?
 - i. Compare the new mind you have in Christ to the futile mind of those who are not in Christ.
4. Beginning in verse 25 we see what the new man looks like.

- a. Watch as each verse gives the old way of living and then shows what we are to put on.
 - i. Replace lying with Truth
 - 1. How do we do this?
 - ii. Replace sinful anger with anger that does not lead to sin.
 - 1. What is anger that does not lead to sin?
 - 2. How does anger that we refuse to let go of let the devil have a place in our lives?
 - iii. Replace stealing with working so that we can have goods to help others.
 - 1. How is this a new mindset even for those who were not thieves?
 - 2. How does this reflect the attitude of Christ?
 - iv. Replace corrupt talk with speech that builds up.
 - 1. What does this look like?
 - v. Notice in verse 30 that Paul connects the way we treat each other to grieving the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. Think about how important unity is to the church.
 - a. How does putting on the new man help us maintain unity?
 - vi. Verse 31 gives a whole list of sinful attitudes that we must remove if we are going to put on the new man.
 - 1. How do we put each of these things away?
 - b. Verse 32 tells us who we must become.
 - i. Kind
 - ii. Compassionate
 - iii. Forgiving as we have been forgiven.
 - 1. How have we been forgiven?
 - 2. How do we show this forgiveness?
5. If you have time check out Matthew 18:21-35 and see just how serious God takes our forgiveness of others.
- a. How does this parable show us the level of forgiveness we have been given and the way it calls us to forgive?