

Life Group Notes 17th October 2021

Make room in your heart for godly grief

What did God speak to you about on Sunday? What can you remember from Si's message?

Ask if there are any testimonies of when people have struggled with godly grief, and then the fruit that came when they allowed the Holy Spirit to led you to repentance and fresh zeal for God?

Barnett says in his commentary on 2 Corinthians 7, it is “a hinge on which the 2 main parts of the letter are joined.” The first part Paul's defence of his actions and ministry (1-7:1) before he then makes his major admonishments of the second half of 2 Corinthians which would demonstrate how they could make room in their hearts for God's work through Paul. ***Read 2 Corinthians 6:11-13 & 7:2-16***

Paul had written his severe letter before 2 Corinthians due to an area of sin that needed dealing with, this letter is now lost as it was not Scripture just an 'ordinary letter.' Paul had mixed feelings over exercising discipline (v8), but his joy was that it had produced godly grief that led to repentance and their obedience to Christ (v9).

Read Hebrews 12:5-11 and in groups of 3 or 4 discuss what this passage teaches us about God's discipline and therefore what our attitude towards it should be. Then get each group to feed back to the Life Group what they discussed.

Then ask them what is the difference between what they have just read with this passage (and read to them) Matthew 18:15-20? (Deliberate sinful behaviour that is negatively impacting others, choosing to keep sinning rather than reconciliation even upon being made aware of it by several believers, and then the church leaders etc.)

Why is church discipline necessary? (See 1 Cor 5:3-8)

Finally in 2's and 3's pray for each other that God would give us open hearts to him, his people and godly grief. That we would be people that are sensitive to the Holy Spirit's challenging of us when we sin, and that he would empower us to forgive and remain loving when we are hurt by the sins of others.

(Please note that there will be people in your group struggling with godly grief of one form or another at the moment, that is not prophetic it is just called life! So be sensitive to this as leaders and pray with those currently struggling with it presently.)

Recommended book to read –Tom Wright's, Paul for everyone 2 Corinthians