

Growing Together Discussion Questions from Sunday's Sermon

(For Personal Study, Review, Meditation and Mid-Week Group Discussion)

March 17, 2013

- I. **Getting to know you ~ Questions for Group Discussion:**
 - a. What is your favorite season of the year? Why?
 - b. What is your favorite holiday tradition? What meaning does it have for you?
 - c. If you had to change your first name, what name would you choose?

- II. **Getting into the Bible ~ Points from Sunday's Message:**
 - a. **Some Key Verses from Sunday's Message: *Wisdom on What's Better II - Proverbs***
 - i. **It's better to live in a tent in the desert than with an unloving husband or a nagging wife.**
 1. Proverbs 21:9
It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.
 2. Proverbs 17:1
Better is a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting with strife.

 - ii. **It's better yet to be reconciled to God, and to one another, through the power of the gospel, and to live in a home where the values of God's kingdom are being put into practice by faith and obedience.**
 1. Philippians 2:3-7a
"Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant,"
 2. Ephesians 5:1
"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.
And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

 - iii. **Two are better than one (Eccl. 4:9). Marriage is a blessing! Marriage is good. The blessings of marriage include: (1) Partnership, (2) Procreation, (3) Pleasure, and (4) Purpose (Gen. 1:26-28).**

 - iv. **While marriage is best for now, it will be obsolete in the new heaven and new earth. (Mark 12:18-27). Our partnership will be with Jesus (Rom. 8:16-17). Procreation will be unnecessary (Rev. 7:9-10; 21:1-4). The pleasures at God's right hand will be superior to what we now experience (Col. 3:1-4). Together, with Jesus, we will rule and reign forever (Rev. 11:15; 22:5).**

1. Job 19:25-26

“I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him – with my own eyes – I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me.”

2. Ephesians 2:6-7

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”

b. Some Key Points from Sundays message: Worship!

i. 1 Corinthians 2:9

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him.”

III. **Getting into Life:**

- a. Why is marriage so desirable? Even with all of the modern attacks against it – why is marriage so desired? (think biblically)
- b. If marriage was created by God and declared by Him to “be good,” why might the Apostle Paul encourage singleness to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 7:8-9, 25-38)?
- c. What are your *immediate* thoughts about not being married in the resurrection? How are your thoughts influenced by the revelation of Scripture and the reality of the superior experience of living with Jesus in the new heaven and new earth?
- d. For those who are married: what do you most look forward to as a married couple? How does your greatest anticipation in marriage compare with your anticipation of the glory of the resurrection?