

Growing Together Discussion Questions from Sunday's Sermon
(For Personal Study, Review, Meditation and Mid-Week Group Discussion)

April 14, 2013

I. **Getting to know you** ~ *Questions for Group Discussion:*

- a. What traumatic event has changed your life forever?
- b. What epitaph would you want engraved on your gravestone?
- c. If you were required to distribute a million dollars any way you wanted, how would you do it?

II. **Getting into the Bible** ~ *Points from Sunday's Message:*

a. Some Key Scriptures & Points from Sunday's Message:

i. **Key Scripture:**

1. *If your brother sins, go and tell him his fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have gained your brother.*
Matt 18:15
2. *My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.*
James 5:19
3. *Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.*
Galatians 6:1

ii. **Key points:**

1. We more readily see sin in the lives of others before seeing sin in our own life.
2. Christian discipleship takes place in the context of imperfect relationships.
 - a. If we have to be without sin in order to address sin in someone else's life, then sin will never be addressed.
 - b. As Christians we don't demand moral perfection from our correctors.
3. Spiritual growth is a community project. We need one another. Therefore, we should pursue participation within the body of Christ and welcome regular correction.
4. Humility is necessary to properly correct someone else. Humility is necessary to properly receive correction. Humility is the fruit of understanding and embracing the gospel.

5. No matter how far along in the faith we are, we never outgrow the need for correction.

III. **Getting into Life:**

- a. We readily acknowledge that we are not perfect...but are we ready to receive correction.
 - i. What barriers exist for you in receiving correction?
 - ii. Do others find it easy to correct you?
- b. What is practically helpful in providing positive correction to others? (What is the best way to correct someone else?)
- c. Does anyone know the areas of temptation in your life at the present? What is the danger of facing temptation all alone? What is the risk of revealing to someone else the temptations you are facing? How can the risks be avoided and the benefits of disclosure and accountability be achieved?
- d. When confessing sin, do you confess specific instances of sin or just general categories?
- e. Apart from repenting and confessing sin to God, to whom do you confess your sin? (See James 5:16.)

Beloved, I urge you as foreigners and exiles to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of he visit us... For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.
1 Peter 2: 11-12, 15-17