

## Growing Together Discussion Questions from Sunday's Sermon – December 8, 2013

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

### I. **Getting to know you** ~ Questions just for fun:

- a. What was your most challenging topic in school? What was your favorite class?
- b. What kind of test question do you most prefer: multiple choice, essay, true/false, fill-in-the-blank?

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

#### **Satan, Sin & the Hope of the Gospel**

#### a. Points from Sunday's Message:

- i. The desire to be worshipped and have an identity apart from God is the quest of our culture – and is the essence of sin.
  1. Satan's fall came as the result of his desire to be worshipped and to be independent. "I will make myself like the Most High." (Is. 14)
  2. Satan's temptation of humanity / humanities fall: tempted to be worshipped and independent. "You can be like the Most High." (Gen. 3)
- ii. Sin is more than breaking commands and not keeping rules. Sin is:
  1. Believing you can be something apart from god. Building an identity on something other than God.
  2. Believing you can be your own source for what is right and wrong. Determining what is right and wrong independent of God's character and commands.
  3. Believing you can be the source of your own truth. Believing anything other than God, Himself.
  4. Sin is the reality we inherited from Adam. When Adam sinned, sin entered the world and death by sin.

#### b. Quotes:

- i. "Sin is not simply doing bad things, it is putting good things in the place of God." CS Lewis
- ii. "All sins are an attempt to fill voids. Because we cannot stand the God-shaped hole inside of us, we try stuffing it full of all sorts of things, but only God may fill it." Simone Weil
- iii. "Sin is not primarily doing bad things, it is seeking to establish a sense of self by making something other than God central to your significance...sin is seeking to become oneself, to get an identity, apart from Him." T. Keller
- iv. "Sin is what we do when we are not satisfied with God." John Piper
- v. There's hope for sinners.
  1. There's no hope for the religious. No hope for the self-help crowd.
  2. But there's hope for sinners. Jesus came to save sinners!
  3. Through one man's sin (Adam) – all became guilty, corrupted and condemned.
  4. Following many sins, through one man's obedience (Jesus) – God graciously provided for righteousness and eternal life.

5. We are accepted before God not on the basis of what we have done, but on the basis of what Jesus has done on our behalf. Through faith in Jesus we are justified.

c. **Key Scriptures from Sunday's Message:**

1. Romans 5:1-21; Genesis 3:1-24; Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19

III. **Getting into Life:**

- a. Re-read Romans 5.

What is your attitude toward imputed guilt and corruption? What do you think about Adam's sin and guilt being credited to the whole human race – including you?

What is your attitude toward imputed righteousness? What do you think about Jesus' perfect record being credited to your ledger as a gift of God's grace?

- b. Adam was a type / a pattern / a shadow of Jesus. What similarities and dissimilarities exist between Adam and Jesus as found in the Romans 5 passage?

- c. If the person whose judgment and opinion matters the most has given you his approval and acceptance (God, through Jesus), how does this influence your attitude toward God, toward yourself, toward others?

If you have been removed from the cosmic courtroom with a verdict of "not guilty" and fully exonerated, how does that freedom influence your need for acceptance and approval of others?

How does freedom from sin and guilt influence you today?