

## Small Group Discussion Questions - Fall Semester // Week Nine

*Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.*

### Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) Has your life changed significantly with the new Code Red restrictions that came into place in Manitoba over the last week? How can we pray for/support you and your family during this time?
- b) What's the best piece of advice that you've ever been given? Who gave you this advice? Was there a particular time in your life when this advice was useful?

### Passage and Discussion

#### **Read 1 John 4:1-6**

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) In our passage, John creates a contrast between that which is "from God", and that which is "from the world". Upon first hearing this, how would you define the difference between these two categories? How do you think that we recognize if something is "from God"?
- c) As Cam taught on Sunday, our passage makes it clear that these are mutually exclusive categories - if something is from God, then it is not from the world. Why do you think this is true? Why can't a truth, idea, worldview, etc. be both from God and from the world?
- d) In 1 John 4:1, John teaches us to "test the spirits to see whether they are from God". What do you think he means by this? What are a few ways that we can test something to find out where it comes from/if it is true?
- e) On Sunday, Cam spoke about the two ends of the statement: "in the world, but not of it". How would you define the two ends of this idea, if taken to their extreme? In your own words, what is the correct balance for us as people of God?
- f) **Read John 17.** What does this passage tell us about how Jesus wants us to live our lives? What is the connection between this passage and our main passage?
- g) Instead of the statement, 'In the world, but not of the world', Cam made an adjustment: "we are sent into the world, but are set apart from the world". How do you think this statement more accurately captures John's teaching in John 17:6-19?

- h) In the first part of this statement, we are reminded that we are sent into the world. Would you consider yourself to be “sent”? Is this a primary way that would define the way that you live your life?
- i) In the second part of the statement, we are taught that though we are sent into the world, we are called to be set apart from the world. What are a few examples of beliefs or teachings that we would hold that would set us apart from the world around us?
- j) What does this contrast tell us about our identity as Christ-followers? How should we be different than the world around us, if the way that we live is “from God”?
- k) As you reflect on your own life, are there areas of your life where you feel convicted to make changes based on this teaching? How can we (as a Small Group) help support you as you align yourself more with God, and less with the world?
- l) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

### **Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)**

- a) This week, reflect on your everyday life. Use the five areas that Cam encouraged us to consider: allegiance, authority, pursuits, audience, hope. What changes do you need to make to your life to align yourself more with God?
- b) In 1 John 4:1, we are commanded to test everything to see whether it comes “from God” or “from the world”. This week, spend a few minutes praying that God would help you to grow in your ability to discern what is true, and to live by it.

### **Optional Ideas for Prayer Time**

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to ‘check-in’ about how each person is doing, and pray for them.
- b) As a group, spend a few minutes praying for this series that we are walking through as a church. Pray that God would use it to help each of us become more like Him, and to help our church become more like the community He wants us to be.