

Growth Group Discussion

Winter

Week 7

We use these times to grow closer to God and to one another.

1 Samuel 15:20-24

Then Saul said to Samuel, “I did obey the voice of the Lord, and went on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God at Gilgal.” Samuel said, “Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices

As in obeying the voice of the Lord?

**Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams.**

**“For rebellion is as the sin of divination,
And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
He has also rejected you from being king.”**

Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned; I have indeed transgressed the command of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and listened to their voice.

Getting to Know You

Can you describe a time you had to resist trying to please people or look good in others' eyes?

Identity-Part 3

1. In what ways has social media helped you, and in what ways has it hurt you?

2. Do you think that Jesus would have used social media? If so, what kinds of things would he have posted?

3. How much do you use social media? What platforms do you use? (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Snapchat)

4. Have you ever felt that your posts in social media have been questionable or have not been pleasing to God? If so, please explain.

5. Read and discuss this quote about overcoming the 2 pillars of people pleasing: the fear of failure and the fear of rejection.

“When people-pleasing replaces God-pleasing, fear of failure or rejection is at the root. People are driven by the need for approval and desire to become successful, not only to avoid being rejected, but for self-approval.

Once again, we are focusing on something other than Christ, which is idolatry; we are engaging in people-centered worship and self-centered worship. Many people-pleasers believe this kind of behavior is commendable because it involves serving others, but it isn't—it's motivated by approval and the assurance that we are a success. -See back leaf for continuation

(Continuation from Homework) The problem with this is we are often looking to a dark world to define our success instead of looking toward the light of Christ and walking as children of the light: "Walk as children of light...and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8,10).

In God's Word, we find the truth that can combat this fear: We define success by what brings glory to God. Instead of looking to what we accomplish, how much money we make, who we impressed with our accolades, we need to evaluate the fruit we are bearing for the Lord and the relationship we have with Jesus Christ...

Once we are secure in our relationship with God, and understand the implications of that relationship, we will seek to know how we can please him. Jesus explained to his disciples that loving God was demonstrated by obeying God (John 14:21).

When we desire to obey God, the desire to please others fades, and pleasing God becomes more important (2 Corinthians 5:9)."

Read 1 Samuel 15:20-24. What do you think about what happened to Saul? Can you relate in any way?

Talk about the inspiration you feel when seeing Jesus and the disciples being 100% joyful and focused on pleasing God -- free from any people pleasing prison.