

Growth Group Discussion

Fall

Week 7

We use these times to *grow spiritually and to deepen our relationships*.

In this message series, we're focusing on how Jesus is "better"—better than any other pursuit or priority we could build our lives around. Right now, we're focusing on seven aspects in which Jesus is **better**.

Theme Passage: In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, **sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.**—Hebrews 1:1-3

Getting to Know You

Do you have a funny story of a time you tried to wriggle out of a sticky situation with an excuse? What was the result?

Better.—Part 5

Reflection and Discussion

1. What stood out to you most from Sunday's message?

In our culture, it is very hard to talk clearly about sin without addressing our culture's dominant viewpoint on the matter. In the poll that Paul mentioned on Sunday, people were asked their opinion about the 6 pillars of a "new morality" that is in line with a postmodernist viewpoint:

- 1. The best way of finding yourself is by looking within yourself.**
- 2. People should not criticize someone else's life choices.**
- 3. To be fulfilled in life, you should pursue the things you desire most.**
- 4. The highest goal of life is to enjoy it as much as possible.**
- 5. People can believe whatever they want, as long as those beliefs don't affect society.**
- 6. Any kind of sexual expression between two consenting adults is acceptable.**

2. It was reported that most respondents agreed with these tenets, and even that a solid majority of "practicing Christians" agreed with 5 of the 6. Do you see these as functioning as the "new morality" of our culture? How so?

3. How do you feel about each of these statements? You can focus on one at a time. Are there any that you identify with? Why are they so appealing? Do they contain elements of truth? Do you ever find yourself gravitating towards them or acting on them consciously or otherwise?

4. What do you think the perspective from the whole of scripture is on the same topic? Does it agree, disagree, or something in between? Look for and find a few scriptures, events, or accounts that shed light.

5. What is your "takeaway" from Sunday about the way you view or handle truth and sin in your personal life? Please share as specifically as is appropriate.

Family Reminders

Camping Trip—Yee Haw!

Campsite reservations for our annual Camping Trip to Stephen Foster campground in Georgia the weekend of **November 10-12** (Friday and Saturday nights) are happening at the Welcome Center on Sundays. You can pay with cash, credit card, or check. Any additional nights you wish to stay can be made directly with the campground (Stephen C. Foster State Park at 1- 800-864-7275).

Annual Evening Christmas Service and Party— Dec 10th 6pm

This year's Evening Christmas Service and Party is being planned for **December 10th at 6 pm**. We'll have more details on the way soon, but save the date to come worship and celebrate with us!

Special Offering

You can turn in a talent goal card (for the first time or additional goals) and/or give to our special offering this year **AT ANY TIME** during the year, using red envelopes in the pews. There is no special giving date or cutoff date (other than New Year's Eve:) We can do it!

Overall Talent Goal: \$80K

Offered To Date: \$53K