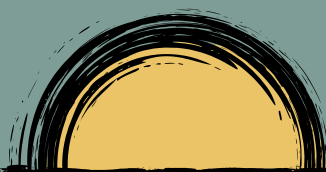


BIBLE AT THE BEACH

LESSON 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

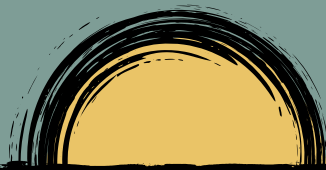
Accountability is hard. Love is also hard. Scripture commands us to do both, as parts of God's design to preserve the Church and ensure it flourishes. He establishes the church both by the work of the Saints and the work of the Spirit. Today we explore how we can balance speaking the truth in love and loving in such a way that "covers a multitude of sins."



BIBLE AT THE BEACH

LESSON 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How was accountability described in this teaching—both by Scripture and by explanation?
2. Why do we need a culture of accountability in our churches? How does it help guard the life of the church?
3. What is the seeming “dilemma” between accountability and love / patience / “bearing with?”
4. According to Scripture, how must love always shape our understanding of accountability?
5. How does Scripture describe love functioning as the “authenticator” of true faith? Is the root of this kind of love based in our behavior or in our heart?

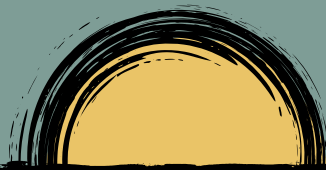


BIBLE AT THE BEACH

LESSON 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

6. Why is trusting in the Holy Spirit's working in our fellow-believers' lives essential for being able to balance accountability with love?

7. Are there any questions or statements in the "Covenant for Communication" that you don't understand? Any that are surprising? Any that resonate especially strongly? Pray that the Lord would use His Word to make us all people who deeply love the truth and deeply love one another.



BIBLE AT THE BEACH

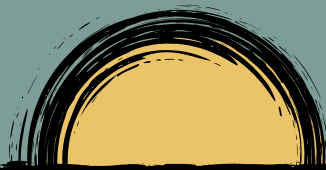
LESSON 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A Covenant for Communication (a personal reflection-based approach)

Supporting Scriptures

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Colossians 3:12-15

8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8



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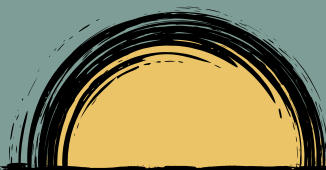
LESSON 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. James 1:19

If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame. Proverbs 18:13.

Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body. Proverbs 16:24

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you. Isaiah 26:3

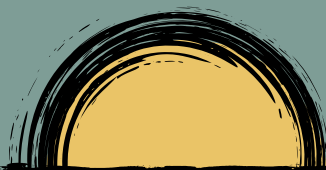


BIBLE AT THE BEACH

LESSON 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. ... ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 5:25-33

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8

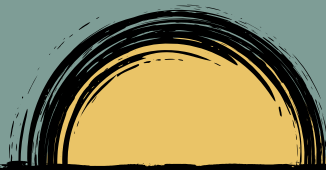


BIBLE AT THE BEACH

LESSON 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

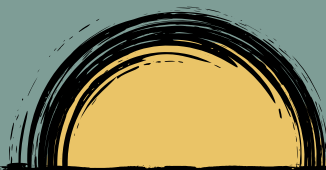
But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 1 John 1:7-10



BIBLE AT THE BEACH

LESSON 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant. Philippians 2:1-7



BIBLE AT THE BEACH

LESSON 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Personal reflection questions

v Am I assuming / believing the best about my brother or sister and their intentions, even if I initially feel hurt by their words?

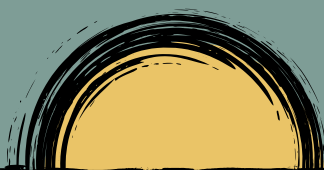
v Am I giving a reasonable amount of trust to my brother or sister, based on what I know of them?

v Am I believing the truths of the Gospel—about myself? About God? About my brother or sister?

v Am I demonstrating a willingness to listen to and entertain ideas and perspectives I don't share, that are not essential issues?

v Am I demonstrating the spirit of grace toward my brother or sister?

v Am I demonstrating a willingness to consider that I may have a blind spot, whether a sin, or just a practice that might be less than helpful?



BIBLE AT THE BEACH

LESSON 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

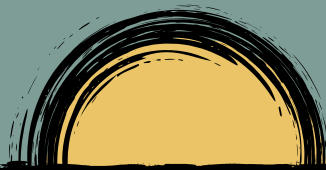
v Am I remembering that a blind spot is unlikely to be something that makes sense to me on initial confrontation? Am I remembering I am more likely to have been 'blind' to it?

v Do I trust that this person's word—prayerfully striving in the Spirit, according to the Word— is likely to be a means of the Spirit working in my life?

v Am I laying demands on my brother or sister's communication that go beyond Scripture?

v Am I placing standards on my brother or sister to receive my forgiveness, beyond their confession and request?

v Am I manipulating, twisting, or using my brother or sister's words against them?



BIBLE AT THE BEACH

LESSON 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

v Am I practicing "communication judo" (asking my brother or sister to share their feedback / be transparent, then turning that statement against them; "moving the goalposts")?

v Am I taking my brother or sister's words out of context?

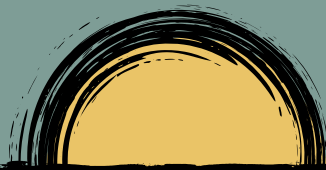
v Am I treating my brother or sister's concerns like a legalistic court case? (Reference the questions on assuming the best and trusting faithful brothers and sisters)

v Am I asking for examples of my sin or unhelpful habits, and then defending my actions in each of those examples, or am I ready to assume I could very likely improve in those areas?

v Am I willing to "cover" this offense with love, following the example of Christ to me?

v Is this an essential issue or one on which I can compromise in order to prefer my brother or sister?

v How long has it been since I have compromised my own preferences on a non-essential issue out of deference to this brother or sister's concerns.



BIBLE AT THE BEACH

LESSON 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

vv When confronted with the possibility that I may have sinned or spoken/behaved unhelpfully, do I begin looking for ways to "counterattack" my confronter?

v Am I remembering that my identity and value are secure in Christ and that I trust this brother or sister, or am I responding to them out of fear or jealousy?

v Am I giving precedence to my feelings or to the truth of Scripture to define what is an offense that must be addressed (whether against me or another)?

