

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide
November 8, 2015



Ghost Stories – Week #3

INTRODUCTION:

1. Pastor Paul shared a great story of his childhood this week. Share a time with the group when you've felt like Paul and thought "We've been good long enough!". Did you give up on a diet? Fall to temptation of sin? Speed to pass the annoyingly slow car? Funny or serious, share what happened when you gave into the thought that you were ready throw the towel in on "being good"...

DIVE IN:

1. One of the challenges we face begins with an understanding that we need to be Holy. The enemy can deceive us into thinking that because we attend church in a casual environment and engage in a casual worship that our attempts at following Jesus should also be casual. However, that's not what it looks like to be fully engaged. Read 1 Peter 1:13-16 below. What does it mean to be holy because God is holy? What's the goal?

So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."

1 Peter 1:13-16

2. Pastor Paul walked through Galatians 5 during his message on Sunday. Read through the passage below and then answer the following questions.

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

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Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

Galatians 5:16-26

3. Paul said that one of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit is to make us more like Jesus. As you read through this passage, do you see becoming Holy as a duty based obligation or a desire to become Christ-like because of the work of the spirit?
4. Share with the group a time when you felt that becoming Chris-like was a burden of do's and don'ts. How did it make you feel? Share with the group a time when you understood the joy of the freedom of walking in the Spirit. How did it make you feel?
5. Let's get really practical... Look back at Galatians 5:19-23. We see the fruits of the sinful nature and the fruits of the Spirit. How do you know that you're holy? Can you make yourself become more joyful, more peaceful, more patient, etc...? Holiness is something that you are, not something you do. How do you live this out regularly?

NOW WHAT:

1. What part of this week's message has had the greatest impact on you? What truth(s) has God taught you through the message and our group discussion?
2. What do you need to do with that truth this week to become a fully engaged follower of Jesus?