



Curing the Cancer of Division

Joel Engle, February 2, 2020

Small Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started

Take some time to catch up and connect as a group. Pray before discussion. Expect God to move through your time together!

Pacing Your Group

Move quickly through “observation” leaving enough time for “reflection”, “discussion”, and “surrender.”

Scripture Reading

Re-read the scripture passages as needed when you discuss the questions.

Observation: *What does this scripture passage say?*

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

1. According to these verses, what threatens to divide the church in Corinth?
2. What solutions does Paul offer to solve this problem?

Reflection and Discussion: *What are some first thoughts flowing from the scriptures?*

Talk together about how the scriptures connect to everyday life.

3. What is the difference between having opposing viewpoints and being divisive?
4. For some reason, people by nature tend to draw close to human leaders. Christians are no different. In Corinth, there were 4 factions in the church who were more caught up on celebrity worship than the worship of Jesus. Paul planted the Corinthian church and certainly left an impression (Acts 18). Apollos was a powerful apologist and many in the Corinthian church were loyal to him. Some were loyal to the apostle Peter because he was probably the most famous apostle at that time. What keeps a church in the will of God is when Christ is the centerpiece of all praise and all worship. We must let nothing anything or anyone take preeminence over Christ. How can we actively work to minimize this kind of division?
5. When Paul says that Christ didn't send him to baptize (v17), he wasn't minimizing the importance of baptism. He was amplifying the reality that no one person could “do it all” in ministry. We should be content with the contribution God has given us to make and carry it out wholeheartedly. Think about these questions together:
 - What's at risk when only one or a few try to “do it all” in church ministry?
 - Who is a good example of an individual who is “fully deployed” in their gifting in the church? Describe their ministry.
 - What contribution (time, talent, treasure, gifting, etc.) do you believe God has called you make in the church?

Surrender: Responding to God's voice.

6. What is one thing God is saying to you through this study and discussion?

**** Take some time to pray for one another in response to what has been discussed today ****

We're here!

We would love to hear about how things are going in your small group!

Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

Contact Care & Community Pastor, Michael Warren, (907) 646-4830, michaelw@changepointalaska.com