

The Gospel Changes Everything *Small Group Discussion*

EIGHT THE CHURCH CONTINUED

DISCUSSION OVERVIEW

The discussion will continue to focus on the role of us as the church as we navigate the tension we live in as exiles – in but not of the world, serving as ambassadors for Christ in our everyday lives.

SERIES OVERVIEW

Why have so many efforts to change our world proven ineffective, or even destructive? What does it mean to be a faithful presence of Christ in this world? This series will explore how the church can play a role in affecting positive change. The gospel, rather than politics or worldly power or wealth or social media or reclusiveness, changes everything.

POSSIBLE FURTHER DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does scripture say?
- What does culture say?
- Which voices are speaking to you too quietly or too loudly?
- Where does Christ come into play / redeem this?
- How is this issue helping or hindering human flourishing?
- Where is the hope misplaced here?
- How can you lean into gospel power vs. weight of this issue?
- How does this affect our small group?
- How can you be a faithful presence in your life?

LOOK *What do we see around us and in our lives?*

What are you always the most excited to come back to after vacation/time away from home?

BOOK *What does Scripture say about this?*

I John 2: 15-16

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

Matthew 5: 14-16

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

I Peter 2: 9-12

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Which sections of the above scripture are encouraging for you to read? Challenging?

Potential answers: we're chosen, God's special possession; challenges: it's so hard to find the balance of in but not of the world, live good lives, etc.

How do we love the world well – without being distracted by all these things of the world?

Potential answers: live honestly among neighbors, remember this is our temporary home, be a light amidst the darkness, etc.

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Story of the Good News of Jesus.

Creation

God makes all things and they are good

Fall

God's people turn away from God, things are broken. Death and sin rule over all things.

Redemption

God, through Jesus' death and resurrection, rescues his people and defeats death and sin.

Restoration

Jesus returns to be with his people, end all brokenness, and make all things right.

THE GOSPEL *The Good News of Jesus*

We saw the actions of Jesus as set apart – how do we live as a “city on a hill”, engaged and visible as a light in our world?

Potential answers: love unconditionally, listen well, promote unity & peace, live generously, etc.

Which desire of the world do you need more of Jesus' power to take control over this week?

Answers will vary.

Accountability/Reflection

Share together and pray for each other

TOOK *What will you take away from today's discussion?*

Possible questions to consider:

Consider what God is telling you stop, start, change, or continue.

What part of the gospel do you forget and need to remember this week?

Who do you know who needs to know the truth you discussed today?