

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1 Corinthians 5 - 'Sincerity and Truth'

January 30, 2022

There are different qualities of the gospel that hit us when we hear strong words like 1 Corinthians 5.

Compassionate quality of the gospel: Even for a blatant sinner like the person in this situation – there is room made for repentance, the door is wide open to come to Christ and to be forgiven. In this case, a person guilty of shocking sin is restored to the community (2 Cor 2:5-11).

1. Is your heart open to the very worst of sinners to be welcome into the church? What could trip you up or keep you from holding the door of your heart open?

Convicting quality of the gospel: Sometimes the good news first sounds like bad news, because God reveals some behaviour that He wants us to stop doing. News that may offend us can trip us up easily and can cause us to be defensive.

2. How do we address this defensive attitude that arises easily within us and that comes naturally from our culture? What helps (and what doesn't help) in Christian community when we are wrestling with our response?

Commissioning quality: Holiness is never about only our own lives – it's about the brightness of the lamp of Christ in His people to shine into the world.

3. Have you ever thought about how the battle with our flesh is also a beacon of light for Christ to those around us? Even our humility about our failures and 'start overs'?

Further study: *Loving, forgiving, and also pursuing holiness.*

4. Matthew 18, Ephesians 4, Colossians 3, Romans 12 all give us a picture of Christian community that is in a constant state of forgiving and forbearing yet also pursuing holiness. Are these really tensions? How does the Holy Spirit do both in your life or where have you seen examples of both grace and holiness in action?