

Point Group Notes

Message from 9/22/24

Leaders Guide

Leaders Notes are in RED

1. This week's ministry emphasis is **BAPTISM** when you are talking with your group about the discipleship of Timothy or even about what needs to change in their life to make their message more effective, it's a great segway to baptism. Have the confidence to ask the whole group. The next baptism service is Oct 6th.
2. Remember to get to the PG Homework with your group this week promptly. It's easy to have last week carry over into spending too much time mingling before getting to the "meat and potatoes."
3. Highlight the Men's and Women's "Feasts" that will take place at Pastor John's house in October. Make sure your group is SIGNED UP!

Getting to know you...

1. We all have "pet peeves." What are some things that get under your skin?
2. Why do you think it's harder for us to relate and "do life" with people when they are the perpetrators of these "pet peeves" that annoy us? Why do you think it can be almost impossible for us to relate to people who live lives we don't agree with at all?
3. We recognize we have pet peeves; we know it's hard to "like" people who annoy us... How does that relate to the message of "living sacrificially to amplify the Gospel"?

Quick Review – Have a look at your sermon notes from last week. What stood out to you the most? Did you learn anything new? Did anything said leave you with any questions?

Digging Deeper...

This week's main idea is to amplify our message of Jesus' saving work on the cross by seeking to live in community with the people around us. We all have people in our lives who need to hear the Gospel, and for some, *we might be the only person to speak*. Ensuring our message can be heard is CRITICAL. Often, that means "*becoming a Jew to win the Jews*" despite having *freedom* in Christ. Let's take a look at a passage mentioned this Sunday and discover God's plan for us to live in Freedom while amplifying HIS message to our community.

1 Corinthians 8:9-13 ESV



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⁹ But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹ And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹² Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

1. Two words are used here. "Right" & "Knowledge." What is being referred to in those words?

This "Right" refers to our freedom in Christ. This freedom does not give us the authority to sin, but it does allow us to live in honor of Christ without the concern that "every little thing is against the law."

"Knowledge" is speaking to you *knowing* how to honor the Lord in your freedom.. Spurgeon famously stated that he could "Smoke a cigar to the Glory of God". There would likely have been situations where wisdom would have told him to refrain so *that* he could honor this passage.

2. In practical, 21st-century language, what is Paul talking about here? How can my freedom and knowledge be a destroyer of a person?

In our culture, sin often looks like the abuse of the creation God has given us to enjoy. Alcohol, Tobacco, food, and even physical fitness can be taken to an extreme where IT becomes the most important thing in someone's heart and not God himself. Further – some people may not be able to get their mind and soul into a spirit of worship while they are around certain things that are ultimately benign. When I take my freedom as more important than lovingly fellowshiping with someone in a way they too can worship, it can destroy. Especially if it may lead them to more struggle with the thing, they've had to stop to focus on the Lord.

3. In this passage, what is being highlighted as more important? Freedom in Christ, or the spiritually vulnerable and easily influenced. How does this reflect the way Christ loves the world?

Simply put, the answer is loving the spiritually vulnerable and easily influenced. Jesus came down to our level so that we might know him. We must go out of our way to make ourselves and our relationship with Jesus available for everyone in our circle even when it's inconvenient.



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Taking it Home...

1. Right off the bat, what are some things that you're questioning in your life right now? Who might it be affecting? How can you sacrificially amplify the Gospel without becoming "legalistic" about it?
2. Obviously, it's not typical in 21st-century America to have a debate on whether we should or shouldn't eat idol worship meat. But there is still applicable truth here. What are some "freedoms" we have in Christ that could make people stumble?
3. As you think through this week's message and study, how can your group pray for you?

