

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 12, 2012

Passage: Various

Memory Passage: Eph. 4:1-3

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 4:1-6 & Col. 3:12-13.** What does the phrase “bear with one another” mean? What qualifier does Paul give this phrase in Eph. 4:2? What is the difference between bearing with another person in love, and just bearing with them?
- (b) What qualities are mentioned in conjunction with bearing in Eph. 4:2, and how are they related to “bearing with” another believer? Can you bear with others in love without exercising these attitudes/actions? Why or why not?
- (c) Why is bearing with one another consistent with “walk(ing) in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called” (Eph. 4:1)? What does bearing with one another show about us (Eph. 4:3) and how does it reveal this eagerness?
- (d) Think back on your Christian life and describe a time or two when you required other believers to bear with you, and be ready to share this with your class. Explain why you needed bearing with, how others did or did not bear with you, and how God used the situation to sanctify you. Now think of times that God allowed you to bear with other believers and be ready to share with your class how God blessed you, your relationship with the other person, and kept unity within the body of Christ.
- (e) *Family: Read Eph. 4:1-4.* Ask, “What does the word ‘bearing’ mean?” Explain that it means to tolerate, to put up with, or to endure another person, and that Paul says we are to do this “in love.” Then ask, “What types of attitudes and actions in other people do you find difficult to bear?” Make a list of these on the white board. Now ask, “Have you ever felt or acted in these ways? What things happened to make you act in these ways or have these attitudes, and in what ways would you have liked people to bear with you in love during these times?” Now make another list of ways that your family, based on the way they would like to be treated, can bear with other believers in love in specific challenging situations.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Pet. 4:10-11.** With what, according to Peter, are we to serve one another? Who is the giver of the gifts with which we are to serve one another and how are they described? What is the ultimate goal of this kind of service?
- (b) How has God gifted you? Are you using these giftings to serve the body? If so, how are you using them, and if not, how should you be using them? If you are not sure of how the Spirit has gifted you, pray and ask God to give you clarity and discernment as you read Rom. 12:6-8, 1 Cor. 12:7-10 & 28, and Eph. 4:11. Remember: the Spirit gifts *every* believer! There are no ungifted believers in the body of Christ, and that includes you! See 1 Cor. 12:4-7.
- (c) Aside from the preaching & teaching of our elders, how have you/do you, as a member of this body, benefit from the giftings of other believers? By qualifying this question I am not trying to minimize the preaching & teaching ministry of our elders, but to focus you on everyone else in the body and how you benefit from their giftings. Be ready to share these thoughts in your class. There might be others in the class that have never had their gifts affirmed and this exercise of praise to God (it is the triune God who equips His church!) might be beneficial to those struggling with exercising their gift, yourself included!
- (d) *Family: Read 1 Pet. 4:10.* Help your family to see the many gifts, both speaking & serving, that God has given to believers in BCC and how your family benefits from people serving each other with their gifts. Help them see the joy of being an active part of the body, serving and being served, as we live in intimacy with each other in the way that God has designed!

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Gal. 6:1-3 & 1 Thess. 5:14.** What is the difference between “bear(ing) one another’s burdens” (Gal. 6:2) and “bearing with one another” (Eph. 4:2 & Col. 3:13 from Day 1)? According to the context in Gal. 6, what does Paul have in mind by using this term? How does the phrase, “and so fulfill the law of Christ” (6:2) connect this command with what we have already learned in our study of the one anothers?
- (b) Consider each of the commands in 1 Thess. 5:14. Explain how each one of these help us to implement the command to bear the burdens of another believer? How do you recognize when someone is idle, fainthearted, or weak, and how would you (or do you) admonish, encourage, and help them? Why is patience needed in each situation?
- (c) How does the entire body being obedient to these commands further intimacy & unity within the body, and how does disobedience to these commands destroy or hinder intimacy & unity?
- (d) *Family: Read Gal. 6:1-3.* Plan an opening game in which your family must move a pile of objects from one point to another. These can be books or anything else that would be too heavy to lift all at once and require several trips to complete the task. If you are outside, piles of rocks, dirt, or building material will do. Make sure that one pile is much larger than all the others. Then say, “The goal is to move all of the piles to the other side in the shortest amount of time, and you must move all

of your own pile first.” In order to complete the task in the shortest amount of time each person will need to, after they complete the moving of their own pile, help the one whose pile is largest. Then **Read Gal. 6:1-3** and relate spiritual burden bearing (helping those who are burdened by sin to apply the gospel and give Biblical instruction for how to battle that sin, thus sharing in bearing their burden and helping them to be restored to spiritual health; and also that one must make sure they are not being tempted toward sin, just like they needed to move their own pile of books prior to helping others move theirs).

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Gal. 6:1-3.** Let’s look at this passage for another day! To whom does Paul refer with the phrase, “you who are spiritual?” What is required of this person in order to bear the burdens of one caught in sin? What is Paul teaching in v. 3, and how does it affect our understanding of the task of the spiritual person?

(b) Write down a list of 5 sins in which a believer could be caught. How, specifically, is the restoration of the person caught in each of these sins accomplished? In what ways is this bearing his/her burdens?

(c) Now imagine that it is *you* caught in each of these sins (this is not difficult, correct?). What should your response be when you are approached by another believer in the same way you described in (b)? How will you cooperate with the Holy Spirit’s work through this believer?

(d) *Family:* **Read 1 Thess. 5:15.** Begin a discussion in which your family thinks of several ways that people could “do evil” to them and write down several of these ways on your whiteboard. Then ask for each evil deed, “What would it look like to ‘repay evil for evil,’ and what would it look like to ‘seek to do good to one another?’” Spend most of your time talking about what it means to do good, and how we can be prepared to do good even in the face of difficult and challenging situations.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 12:13, 1 Pet. 4:9, & Heb. 13:2.** How do you define a “need?” What must happen in your relationship with another person before you can contribute to their needs? What must you do to allow other people to obey this command when *you* have a need? What is presupposed in this command about our attitude towards our own finances and “stuff & things?”

(b) What does the word “hospitality” mean? To whom are we supposed to seek to show it? Is this command only for those with the “gift” of hospitality ☺? Is there a difference between how we show hospitality to fellow believers and how we exercise it toward strangers? If so, how is it different? What could be being revealed about our spiritual state if we refuse to show hospitality to strangers?

(c) Why are we admonished to show hospitality “without grumbling?” Do you ever grumble about showing hospitality? Does this attitude cause you *not* to show hospitality to others (and therefore violate this command)? How can you combat the selfish tendency to ignore this command and enter into the blessings that you will receive when you exercise hospitality?

(d) What should you do if you don’t know how to show hospitality? If you are already active in showing hospitality, how can you influence and disciple others in their understanding of and obedience to this command?

(e) *Family:* Use tonight to review all of the ways you have been challenged to exercise the one anothers. Remind your family of the specific actions and attitudes that you have learned bring glory to God and deepen our intimacy with one another, and make a list of ways that your family will be better involved in the “one anothers” of Scripture. After the lesson, type out this list and make copies for all of your readers (and make pictures to represent these actions/attitudes for non-readers) to put in a primary place (bathroom mirror, desk, inside the front cover of their Bible) to be regularly reminded of these things.

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Living with One Another Part II

As we conclude our study of the one anothers of Scripture we will examine eleven actions that must mark our relationship with each other.