

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

Communion: Pastor John Mahaffey

Ephesians 1:7

Sunday, March 5, 2017

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. What benefit is there to **you**, spiritually, to celebrate the Lord's Supper on a regular basis?

2. Review the details of grace extended to you, as told in Ephesians 1:7.

3. Redemption denotes ransoming someone from captivity or from slavery. What have you been ransomed from?

4. In Ephesians 1:1-14 we see God's purpose to form a people for Himself and to sum up all things in Christ.
 - a. In vs. 3-6 we are shown this people as conceived in the mind of God.
 - i. What do we learn here concerning God's choice of us, His gifts to us, and His purpose for us?

 - ii. Do such thoughts immediately move us as they moved Paul, to say "Praise be to...God?"

 - b. In vs. 7-13 we are shown this same people in process of redemption from sin.
 - i. What parts are played in this work by (a) God the Father; (b) God the Son, and (c) God the Holy Spirit?

- ii. Of what benefits are we assured here? What response is necessary on our part for their enjoyment?
5. We are assured of forgiveness through the blood of Christ, but how would we view the fact that we sin repetitively? (References I John 1: 8 – 10, I John 5:18)
6. Read Jesus' teaching in Matthew 18: 21 – 22 to consider how you should deal with someone that repeatedly sins against you?
7. Here is an excerpt from Corrie Ten Boom who wrote The Hiding Place and had to confront a concentration camp guard who participated in her sister's death – *“But since that time,” he went on, “I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well. Fräulein”– again the hand came out–“will you forgive me?” And I stood there–I whose sins had every day to be forgiven–and could not. Betsie had died in that place–could he erase her slow terrible death simply for the asking?”* Discuss the various reasons why it is difficult for us to forgive?
8. Related to the previous question have you ever found it tough to forgive yourself, and why?