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COMMUNITY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

discussion questions

In Colossians 1:15-18, Paul writes about the nature and character of Christ. How do these descriptions challenge us in regards to our relationship with Christ?

How does our view of Christ affect our view of what we have and how we give?

Christ is described as the head of the church. How do we apply that as individual members of the church and as a local church (Ekklesia) community?

Matthew 6:19-24 warns us that “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” What are those things in your life right now that are competing with Christ for your heart?

discussion questions

Hebrews 11:1 describes to us what faith is. What are some decisions you've made in your life that you would describe as "by faith" decisions?

How does Matthew 17:20 and Luke 1:37 give us confidence to take steps by faith? How have you already experienced that?

Read Hebrews 11:6, God reminds us that faith isn't an optional step in our relationship with Him. How does Hebrews 11:6 cause you to think differently when you evaluate the health of your relationship with Christ?

What are ways the enemy has tried to use fear to hold you back from taking "by faith" steps?

discussion questions

The Macedonian churches went through severe trials and affliction, yet Scripture says, “Their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.” Have you ever experienced abundant joy and extreme poverty at the same time? How can that be possible?

How does knowing that these churches gave during times when the financial conditions had worsened impact us today?

What do you think Paul means by saying, “They gave themselves first of all to the Lord”?

Learning that they were begging to participate in the giving confronts a selfish mindset that threatens all of us. What needs to change in my perspective on giving?

In this letter to the Corinthians, Paul uses the compelling model of the Macedonian churches and their faith to influence others in generosity. Who has influenced you in the area of biblical generosity? How do these Macedonian churches encourage you?

discussion questions

In 2 Corinthians 8:7 Paul challenges the church to “excel in this act of grace also.” What does he mean by that? Sometimes in our relationship with Jesus we can de-emphasize the things we find difficult. What are some areas in your relationship with Jesus that you need to re-emphasize?

Paul challenges the Corinthians to give from what they have instead of focusing on what they do not have. Do you give in a way that places Christ first in all things? Does your giving affect your saving and spending decisions, or do your saving and spending decisions affect your giving?

How does giving demonstrate that someone’s faith is genuine? What are some examples we see of that in scripture?

Paul tells the church in 2 Corinthians 8:9 to imitate Christ through their generosity. How did Christ model generosity for us? What is an appropriate response to what Jesus gave up for us?

discussion questions

What are giving principles we can take from 2 Corinthians 9:6? How have you already experienced this in your life?

2 Corinthians 9:7 warns us against giving with a wrong heart. What is the heart posture from which God expects us to give?

What is the promise from 2 Corinthians 9:8? How does that eliminate fears we may have in regards to giving by faith?

John 3:16 reminds us that Jesus led the way in generosity. He gave Himself for us. And in 2 Corinthians 9:12-14 Paul shares how praise will be given to God for their gift that comes from their confession of the gospel. When we respond to the gospel through a life of generosity it brings praise to God. What is the generosity He's now calling you to respond with?
