

DISCUSSION NOTES

OCTOBER 27, 2019

Start by praying and asking for God's help as you seek to grow as authentic followers of Jesus.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

1. Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13. As a group, try to summarize the study of these verses over the last two weeks. What roles are presented? What is emphasized? What is the big idea? What has stood out to you? What seems most important?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. In a single sentence, how would you summarize what these verses teach about the body of Christ (the church)?

On the one hand, what do these verses say about the different kinds of roles we each play in the church?

On the other hand, how do these verses provide significance and purpose to the participation of each member, no matter what role we play?

Lastly, what action(s) are attributed to God in these verses? How should this inform our perspective?

3. Read Acts 20:28-30, 1 Peter 5:1-3, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:11-13, 1 Corinthians 16:15-16. Based on these verses, how would you describe (1) the responsibilities of leaders in the church and (2) how the church should relate to her leaders?

What seems challenging in these verses?

What seems encouraging in these verses?

4. Read Luke 22:24-27, Mark 10:45, 1 John 3:16, 1 John 4:19. Since we seek to be authentic followers of Jesus, everything we do is grounded in what Jesus has already done for us. In your own words, how would you define *servant-leadership* based on the life and teaching of Jesus?

5. Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16. This is almost certainly a quote from a song which the early church sang in their worship gatherings. Why do you think Paul included it here in a discussion about leaders in the church?

What do we see of Jesus Christ in the song? How might this worshipful reminder re-center our focus on the beauty of the message and the mission of Jesus and the privilege we have to share in it all?

LIVING IT OUT

6. In this study, what is one thing that stands out about your particular role in the body of Christ? Do you have a growing sense of where you fit into the whole? Why or why not?

7. The Bible uses images such as the body of Christ, the household of God, and others to describe the church. Each of these demonstrate our connection and interdependence upon one another. As a way to emphasize these relationships, consider the following questions: is it God's intention that the following "one another" commands be lived apart from a local church? can you live these out through a screen on a phone or computer? Why or why not? What implications does this have for our commitment to active, personal participation in the local church?

THE "ONE ANOTHERS" IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Greet one another (Rom. 16:16, 1 Cor. 16:20, 2 Cor. 13:12, 1 Pet. 5:14)
Comfort one another (1 Thess. 4:18)
Forgive one another (Col. 3:13)
Build one another up (Rom. 15:2; 1 Thess. 5:11)
Serve one another (Gal. 5:13)
Bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2)
Encourage one another (Heb. 10:25)
Meet with one another (Heb. 10:25)
Be kind, tenderhearted, & forgiving of others (Eph. 4:32, Rom. 12:10)
Receive (welcome) one another as Christ received us (Rom. 15:7)
Care for one another (1 Cor. 12:25)
Minister one to another (1 Pet. 4:10)
Show hospitality to one another (1 Pet. 4:9)
Pray for one another (James 5:16)
Love One Another (John 13:34-35)

8. What is one hope or desire you have for the future elders and leaders of our church?
9. What is one way that this study has increased both your understanding of Christ's church and your love for the church?
- How might our study encourage you to pray for our church and our leaders?
10. What is one thing you want to apply to your life from this lesson and seek to live out personally?