



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, October 23, 2011

Closing Loopholes

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Note to Group Leaders:

Leaders, we have put more questions here than you may be able to use. The purpose of this is that certain questions will work for certain groups and so some of these questions will not be good ones for your group. So, pick and choose what works best for your group

Introduce it:

I have a friend that tells this story about his daughter going to her first prom. His daughter was beautiful that night and they celebrated as a family with pictures and laughter as her date showed up. They really liked the young man that was taking her to prom and trusted him and her completely. They had a wonderful relationship with their daughter. After many, many pictures it was time for them to depart. "Dad, what time should I be home?" was her question before they left. "You know me and I know you and I trust you. You decide. Come home when you think it's best for our relationship" was her dad's response. When most kids are out until 2 and 3am or all night, she arrived back home at 11pm. Happy as she could be-not disgruntled because she had to come in earlier or it was a bad night. Though she could have stayed out way later than that, she chose the early side.

After hearing this story, what stirs in you? Are you upset at the dad, the kid? Or do you think that's a sweet story?

Why do you think the kid came home when she did? What do you think most affected her decision?

How would you have responded as a parent?

Revisit it: learn the passage preached on.

Read the passage again as a group: 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

What boundary does Paul set in the first 2 verses?

The issue of the passage is around a Christian (A) eating meat at the home of a guest and another Christian (B) says, don't eat it because it has been offered in sacrifice to another god.

What boundaries has God put around meat sacrificed to false gods? (if you took the challenge a few weeks ago to memorize the ten commandments, look back to the second of the ten)

If Christian B had not been at this banquet, would it have been okay for Christian A to eat the meat? Why or why not?

Because the Christian B is at the meal, would it be wise for Christian A to eat the meat? Why or why not?

Think of a situation in which you did something or didn't do something based off of another Christian's viewpoint that you differed with. Tell about this. What did you decide to do?

What boundary does Paul put on this issue in the last verses: 31-33?

Now, read verses 23-24 and then right after it read 31-33. Tell of a situation you might be in that these verses really help you keep the correct boundaries set.

Relook at it: see other places in the Bible that speak to sermon.

Read Romans 14:13-23

What verses in this passage stand out about our freedom and the boundaries for the Christian that allow for that freedom?

Use it: don't just learn the passage but use it.

For many of us, we have the attitude in our country that "I have my rights." In that attitude, we tend to think only about ourselves. Are there people that you need to go to this week and apologize for not being sensitive to their convictions? In other words, are there people that you have had the attitude, "I'll do what I want and don't care how it affects you"?

Are there people you need to confront for not being sensitive to your convictions? How can you approach them in a manner that says, "you have been a stumbling block?"

Remember it: memorize a verse that helps you to remember and use it.

The story I told you at the beginning was centered around a relationship that was more important than anything else. The daughter came home early because she didn't want to get close to disrupting the relationship that she and her dad had. Of course the dad was fine with her being out later. But she was willing to sacrifice anything that could have happened later for the sake of making sure she was in at a good hour. My hope in this series of studies for us is that we have this attitude toward others and more importantly toward God. Let's stay far away from the things that may sacrifice that.

Memorize 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

"Everything is permissible"-but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"-but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.

Write it on a note card and put on your bathroom mirror or on the dashboard of your car. If you have children, talk about this passage with them and tell them you need their help to memorize this verse. Ask them to memorize it with you. Let them quiz you during the week.