

Community Group Discussion Questions
"Rules of Engagement" Philippians 2:12-18 Nov 11/12

Getting Started

We as the people of God have been given an opportunity like never before, to engage a world searching for answers. Not that we are the answer, but we know the ONE who is the answer. Therefore, to effectively share our hope with those who need it, it is important to be reminded of the directives of His plan and purpose.

Read 1 Peter 3:15. In light of the recent church shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas, what are some of your thoughts about how we can share the hope of Christ with others who don't know Him as we do?

Going Deeper

THERE IS...

I. Call to Work Out: (Vs. 12)

A. Passionate Pursuit: "work out"

Note: "Work"- sustained effort and diligence to engage in bringing something to completion or fulfillment.

B. Personal Possession: "your own"

C. Profound Praise: "fear and trembling"

Note: "Fear" is an understood reverence. "Trembling" is to be in awe of.

Many people are very thankful to have their sins forgiven by the grace of Jesus and know that they have heaven as their future home. However, many also have no idea that between today and heaven, they are expected to be partnering with the Holy Spirit and submitting to the leadership of Jesus in their lives. What does verse 12 say should be happening in your life right now? (We don't work 'for' our salvation, but we work 'out' what that salvation means in our lives.) Does your faith life look like this? If not, what changes do you need to make right away?

II. Comfort to Rest In: (Vs. 13)

A. His Purpose: “it is God”

Key Reference: Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:4-5

B. His Power: “works in you”

Note: “Work(s)” is the Greek word *energeo*, giving us the word “energy”.

Key Reference: Ephesians 3:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:24

C. His Pleasure: “for his good pleasure”

We never need fear losing our salvation, because it is God who is at work in us. We never can take pride in our salvation, because it is God who is at work in us. How do you partner with God in allowing Him to ‘work out’ your salvation? What does it look like in your life as you submit to His working in you? How does it make you feel to know that He is pleased as He sees you becoming more like Jesus?

III. Command to Shine On: (Vs. 14-15)

A. Not Complain: “without grumbling or disputing” (14)

Note: “Grumbling”- dissatisfaction with God. “Disputing”- distorted view of God.

B. Not Conform: “blameless, innocent, without blemish” (15)

C. Not Conceal: “in the midst of” (15)

Note: “Crooked”- The Greek word is *Skolios* meaning “bent, curved, off center”

“Twisted”- To lead astray, confuse or disconnect.

We know our world is confused, rebellious, and looking for significance and satisfaction in all the wrong places. If we live in awe of the salvation God has given us in Christ, and diligently ‘work’ to understand it and live it out, what kind of people will we be? How might our lives attract others to God? How different is the life of Christ in us compared to how most people live?

IV. Challenge to Hold Up: (Vs. 16)

- A. Know the Word: “Holding fast (fix your attention on)”
- B. Make the Word Known: “in the day of Christ I may be proud...”

Take Away: God has done the work for your salvation, giving you the power to live out your salvation, in order for you to live a life offering to the world the possibility of salvation. The hinge of this door of opportunity we have been given is obedience without fear.

The words of God are the words of **life!** We can't possibly keep this great discovery to ourselves. To keep the truth of God hidden is to invalidate and waste all the heroic efforts made by so many faithful Christians who have come before us to hand the faith to us and our generation. How can you hold on to the word of life? How can you make sure it makes it to this generation and the next?

Prayer Requests