

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Counter-Cultural” 1 Corinthians 9:20-23 April 8th

Getting Started

As followers of Jesus there are missional dynamics that we are all to embrace regardless of our vocation. For in every profession, platform, or place of participation, there is a way of thinking and living that is to be embraced by all, and that is to see your place in that space as the mission field. Now, before you panic under the weight of expectation, know this is not something you do, but what God does through YOU.

Often times, we begin with the fear, what do I say, but this series is not so much built on what you say, but how you live. **THUS OUR ENTIRE SERIES CALLED...WINSOME!**

Definition of Winsome: “Attractive or Appealing in Character”

Description of Winsome: “Living a life of Irresistible Influence by giving value to all People”

Display of Winsome: *Honor*Humility*Hustle*Hospitality*High-Capacity

As you think back to your life before you knew Jesus, who were the people that lived extraordinary lives that attracted you to their faith in Jesus?

How were they winsome?

Going Deeper

Background: Paul was a Jewish New Testament missionary who was converted by Jesus for Jesus to reach a Jewish audience steeped in Judaism which included dietary laws, the Mosaic Law, and Ceremonial Laws all the while effectively ministering to the non-Jewish audience who knew not of Judaism or the Scriptures. How was He so effective?

Care about Context (vs. 20-21): In order to get people to go where you are going is to first know where they’re coming from.

Understand before being Understood (v. 20): God gave us two ears and one mouth as a reminder that we are to listen more than we talk.

One of the simplest questions you can ask a person is: “What’s your story?” It is amazing how much and how deeply some people will share with you about their life. What you discover by being a good listener will let you know how you can take your friendship with them to a deeper place and eventually talk about spiritual things. **What are some great listening and questioning skills you can share with us? Or, do you have a story about a time you worked hard to really listen to someone and saw them respond well to you because of your respect for them?**

Love without Limits (v. 21): Jesus didn’t just raise the bar of love; He is the bar of love.

Many Christians struggle with loving the sinner but hating the sin. We are often repulsed and offended by how non-Christians live. Jesus modeled for us that it is possible to love people without loving their lifestyles.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. What are some ways it describes that you can show love to those apart from Christ?

Tethered by Truth (v. 22): Accountability in Behavior is anchored in Belief in the Bible.

Read Hebrews 4:12. Having a strong confidence in God’s word as our standard of right and wrong enables us to listen to His word and obey it.

Read James 1:21-25. How would you explain these verses in your own words?

Unfazed by Unbelief (v. 22): Disagreements are never a cause for Divorce.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19 again. Paul says he has made himself a servant to all. How does Paul’s decision and attitude toward servanthood guide his determination to never give up on people?

Resilient in Ridicule (v. 21): The criticism that stings the most comes from within.

Jesus was so good at loving the lost, that He was given an insulting label by the religious leaders of His day. Six times they called Jesus a 'friend of sinners.' They meant it as an insult, but He took it as a badge of honor.

What might 'church' people say about you if you chose to 'become all things to all men so you might win some?'

How would you speak truth in love to these critics?

Eyes on Eternity (v. 23): Blessed people Bless People.

Tell us about a time in your life when you were blessed with an abundance of something and you just wanted to give some of it away to others because you had more than you could use.

How is this similar to sharing the blessing of Jesus with others?

Takeaway: This is going to be a hard question....Ready??? Do you have a life worth imitating? We emulate what we celebrate! This is the reason we follow Jesus! Are people willing to follow you? If Not, HEAR ME SAY! YOUR STORY AIN'T OVER!

Prayer Requests