



one exception

Small Group Notes - 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

Some groups may find the following suggested questions a helpful starting point. Don't feel bound by them, rather work at understanding God's word for yourselves, praying that God will help you live in the light of it.

Introduction

This week we are thinking about the transformation Jesus longs to bring to our lives and our church.

Question: When you first came to trust in Jesus, what different things did you need to change in your life? How did you find making those changes?

Question: How do you feel now about the idea of Jesus, at work in your life, seeking to increasingly transform you to His likeness?

Read 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

Paul is warning the the Corinthians as their loving father, to 'put on' the family likeness and imitate him. Later in 1 Corinthians (11:1), Paul will say, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."

Question: Spend some time reflecting on the character and mission of the apostle Paul as he follows the example of Jesus. What might it mean for us to imitate Paul as he imitates Christ?

Going Deeper - Individually

Question: Spend some time seeking to identify areas in your life where, if you are honest, you are not imitating Christ at the moment? Some areas you may not want to share, but it would be good if you can identify some areas you might be willing to share.

Question: Often the ways we act in these areas actually stem from the things we really believe/ value deep down. Can you identify the values that are leading you to act in these negative ways that don't imitate Christ?

Question: What truths should challenge us to be transformed, repenting of these negative ways and changing to be more like Christ?

At this point in might be time to turn to prayer for one another, asking God to help us more imitate Christ.

Over the next few weeks you might want to agree to ask one another about those areas you have identified as needing the loving transformation of God.

Going Deeper - As a Church

Question: Spend some time seeking to identify areas in the life of our church, where if we were honest, we are not imitating Christ at the moment?

Question: Often the negative ways we act as a church stem from the things we believe and value together. Can you identify the values of our church which are leading us to act in these negative ways that don't imitate Christ?

Question: What truths should we call to mind as a church that would challenge us to be transformed, repenting of these negative ways and changing to be more like Christ?

At this point you might like to turn to pray for our church, asking God to help us become more Christ like.

Is there anything you should share with the leadership of the church, that we might bring to the wider attention of the church family as a matter for prayer?