

Ruin To Renovation - Sermon #23 - Loving Bodies

Study Questions for Groups & Individuals

OPENING PRAYER:

Explain how the prayer time will go today:

1. Have someone open by inviting the Holy Spirit to speak to you as individuals & a group.
2. Then spend two minutes in silence allowing for the Holy Spirit to speak to each person.
 1. Realize he may say something for the group, our church, or another individual in the room.
3. After 2 minutes, begin praying aloud what you've heard.
 1. You might even just do it in a conversational format such as, "Joe, I felt the Holy Spirit telling me that he's pleased with the effort you've put into ministry lately, and will reward you greatly. Let me pray for that now..."
 2. You may get an image you can share and then pray through. Don't be afraid to share - the Holy Spirit is typically encouraging and speaks in ways which we don't expect.
4. After a while close it out and ask how people felt about what was prayed.

DISCUSSION & OPENER:

1. What is your reaction to **Luke 6:45**? Is it somewhat frightening or comforting?
2. Look through **Psalms 1** prayerfully. What kind of person does this describe - how does one become a person who naturally operates out of inclinations & decisions of a godly good nature? What is central to that kind of person?
 1. How does it compare to **Romans 12:1-2** which keeps coming back up in our study?
3. Look through **Jeremiah 17:5-8** & compare the two people it speaks of...how are they different and what has formed them?
4. If you have time, search through **Proverbs** identifying verses which speak of these two types of people including things which keep them stuck, or move them ahead in faith & life.
5. What are your reactions towards the thoughts on Meaning, Despair & Performance starting on p4 of the sermon?
 1. Do you personally see evidence of the hopelessness, despair & meaninglessness of which we've spoken?
 2. How do you see performance & fanaticism played out in our society as a response to these things?
 3. How do we combat them in ourselves & families?
6. How does one practice what **James 1:25** says - *But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.*
7. If you'd like, you may supplement your Group this week & next with the *How's Your Soul?* Booklet from Vineyard USA - no need to have a booklet for every member, you may just hold onto it as the leader and work from it.
 1. Go through the booklet beforehand highlighting verses, questions & thoughts you'd like to bring out & discuss. Use as much of the material as you see fit.