

## Small Group Questions

## “Me-ism”

Sunday Jan. 29, 2012

1. **Read Psalm 111 and Deuteronomy 18: 15-20.** What drives or possesses you? Toward what end?
2. What seems out of place or dangerous in your life, work, family or neighborhood? Does the “power of God” that is talked about in Psalm 111 seem out of place or dangerous in your life, work, family, or neighborhood? Why or why not?
3. When in your life has fear or amazement become a threshold of faith for you? Did it take fear and amazement of God to get your attention and take your faith seriously?
4. **Read Mark 1:21-28.** What qualities in a person cause you to pay attention to their words? What is it about someone that commands your attention?
5. If Jesus were to walk into your home, work, or school tomorrow, what issues do you think he would confront? Why?
6. What is it that so amazes the crowd about Jesus’ teaching? Would you have been equally impressed? Why or why not?
7. In your opinion, what drives Jesus? What does He stand for?
8. **Read 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13.** What are the “hot” issues facing the church that might “cause a brother/sister to stumble”? How should we respond to these “hot” issues as a community of faith?
9. What is Paul’s advice to the Corinthian church on their particular “hot” issue they were facing?
10. Is Paul’s general advice still applicable to us in 2012? Why or why not?
11. Do you feel like that we, individually as Christians, are “free moral agents” and that we can do whatever we please, or are you more in the camp that “God is God and we are clearly not. We are under his authority. We do as he directs or suffer the consequences.”? Explain.
12. The real question is not necessarily what you believe...it’s more like how are you living your life? Are you living as a “free moral agent” or are you living as one who is “doing what God says”?
13. How can we pray for you this week?

I Corinthians 8: 1-13 seems arcane and irrelevant. “Who cares about food sacrificed to idols?” Not even me, actually. But I do care that God may have something powerful to say that is just below the surface of this ancient Corinthian quarrel. What if we tried a more thoughtful approach: “What is here that is universally applicable?”

The Bible was written for a specific time and place...but God also miraculously preserved the stuff that is applicable to every generation. Theologians call it “inspiration.”

I. “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

- Corinth struggling with food sacrificed to idols
- “I can eat what I want, your opinion is stupid and wrong”
- Claiming their rights and not caring about others
- Battle between Individualism and Community
- This battle rages on today
- { I Cor. 8: 9-13 } “...sin against your brothers...sin against Christ...”
- Authentic Christianity cares deeply about others, even if it means we are inconvenienced

II. “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

- God is community
- God has always valued relationship
- The Scriptures clearly point to community and relationships as the model
- The Creeds reinforce relationship

John 13:35, Acts 2:42