

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Human Flourishing

Week 6: Character & Virtue

Ecclesiastes 7:20 & 29; 12:13-14

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Human flourishing, as described by programs on that subject at several notable universities, is the product of six key factors. As we've seen over the course of this series on Ecclesiastes, King Solomon in his wisdom identified the same factors thousands of years ago. The final key to a satisfying life? Living with character and virtue.

Kicking It Off:

What is your favorite spring break memory?

Discussion:

1. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. How does Solomon sum up what life is about (v. 13)? What does fearing God look like? How does fearing God help you to keep His commands? Can you think of an instance where fear of God kept you from sinning?

Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty. Eccl 12:13 (NLT)

2. Notice that Solomon follows his conclusion that our duty is to fear God and obey Him with the statement that God is going to judge how we have lived – both in public and private, externally and internally. Why would he tie those two together?

3. Now read 1 John 1:8-9. What does John mean when he says “we are only fooling ourselves” when we claim not to sin? Can you relate to that desire to ignore or minimize your sin?

4. What does John say we should do instead (v. 9)? And what will God do in response (note the thoroughness of God's forgiveness).

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:9 (NLT)

5. When was the last time you examined your conscience in regards to sin in your life? Is confessing your sins to God something you practice? Why or why not?

6. Take some time as a group to pray silently and ask God to reveal any sin to confess. Encourage everyone to confess and receive forgiveness in the quietness of their hearts.

Wrapping Up:

It can be hard to admit when you blow it, especially when it comes to moral failings. Pray that each one in your group would grow in their appreciation of how much they need Jesus to rescue them.

But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. ~ Romans 6:22 (NLT)