

Growth Group News

Please pray for prayer in our church. Pray that we would pray for matters outside of our daily routines, like reaching the community for Christ in big ways and making an impact in the lives of those around us who don't know Christ. Don't misunderstand—it's okay to pray for healing, daily decisions, loved ones, etc., just not to the exclusion of all else. Please set aside times to pray for huge breakthroughs in the community surrounding us.

Family Matters: Spiritual Warfare (Part Two)

INSTRUCTIONS: THESE QUESTIONS ARE INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE US TO THINK MORE DEEPLY ABOUT OUR FAITH IN VIEW OF THE SERMON. YOU MAY NOT GET TO EVERY QUESTION. ONE QUESTION MAY PROMPT OTHER FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS OR CAUSE A LARGER DISCUSSION. OUR PURPOSE ISN'T TO 'DISCUSS THE SERMON' SO MUCH AS IT IS TO TAKE OUR CONSIDERATION OF THE PASSAGE DEEPER SO THAT WE CAN LIVE CHANGED LIVES.

UNDERSTANDING QUESTIONS

1. As you think about the topic of spiritual warfare and the schemes of the devil, have these discussions caused you to think about the way you think about your faith, about your practice, and about the local customs of our secularizing culture that have crept in and are creeping into your worldview? In other words, are there ideas that are somewhat, or very, unchristian that have influenced your "Christian" thinking.
2. How we think about God and His call on our lives as parents, as employees, as employers, and as people determines how we worship Him with our lives and our lips. Given our very human vulnerability to the schemes of the devil, why is understanding "Worship and Warfare" so essential to a strong marriage, the raising of children, and a healthy local church (read Colossians 2:8)?
3. Even as Christians, you and I engage of acts of unbelief on an almost daily basis. If we think about this, every sin we consciously commit is an unconscious act of unbelief. It's been said that Christians are not sinless, yet because of God's grace, they "sin less." How would putting on the whole armor of God enable us to sin less—understanding we aren't sinless—by standing against the schemes of the devil?
4. Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 and focus on verse 5. As you look at the culture around you, can you list three schemes of the devil that are at work in our culture? If you can't come up with three of your own, feel free to discuss these among yourselves: pluralism—the belief that all ideas about religion and God are equal; envy—people of wealth are inherently undeserving and more sinful than people of modest means; post-modernism—the notion that no one can know what is true for sure and any certainty is a sign of arrogance. Talk about why these notions are unbiblical yet attractive to Christians today in so many contexts. Discuss how biblical literacy is the key to inoculating God's people from this kind of spiritual sickness.
5. Someone once observed that the devil's most effective tactic (i.e. schemes of the devil) is convincing people that he (and God) do not exist and are therefore irrelevant to our culture and daily life. Discuss this in light of Ephesians 6:10-11, 17. Focus on verse 17 in particular. Do you ever find yourself living as if God is irrelevant to your daily life (and that the devil doesn't exist)?
6. Read Romans 8:38-39 and John 10:27-29. How might reflecting on and understanding these verses keep us from falling prey to irrational fears as missionaries for Christ at home and abroad?