

FOOD TIME: (30-45 minutes) – Remember to give some direction for this time.

MEETING TIME: (45 minutes)

Our connect groups are starting to meet up again and as we read 2 Corinthians 5 in service, it is a perfect chapter to show what the aspects and making of a good disciple look like. Paul here is continuing in his writing to the church in Corinth, and it is clearly seen that he has a love for the church here. That love feeds him to want to have people grow more and more with the Lord each and every day. Paul is clearly aware that we are all sinners and fall short of the glory of God, but that does not change his desire to seek the Lord on a daily basis. It is also brought about that we, as disciples of Christ, need to look to honor and glorify God in everything that we do. This following passage outlines that as well as reiterating the sacrifice that God made on the cross of us.

READ 2 Corinthians 5:9-15

9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. **11** Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences. **12** For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. **13** For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if we are of sound mind, it is for you. **14** For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus; that if One died for all, then all died; **15** and He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him, who died for them and rose again.

FACILITATE Discussion Questions

1. What are things that we can do that are well pleasing to the Lord?
2. Even through our difficulties and shortcomings, how can we put a focus on looking to God rather than our sin?
3. Verse 11 mentions that we know the terror of the Lord; what can a fear in the Lord do for us?
4. Paul emphasizes that we should no longer live for ourselves, what can we do in our everyday lives that honors and glorifies God?
5. How can we show that to others so that they might experience it as well?

PRAY- Take the last 10 minutes to pray about the needs of the group.

APPLICATION- This is such a powerful passage because it further clarifies for us what we are created for, what our purpose is; that we are here to praise and worship the Lord. Making that the focus of our daily lives, lets us feel like we can get past any difficulties that we encounter. As an application, take the thought that in whatever we do, whoever we talk to, whatever the situation is, ask yourself the question, "Is what I am doing putting God first or myself?" When we really take a gut check look at what we are doing on a daily basis, we can constantly remind ourselves that Jesus sacrificed Himself not just for a few, but for everyone. Let that thought of honoring and glorifying God be at the forefront of how you act. Whether it is at church, work, home, or even in the car when someone cuts you off in traffic. Take a second, pray to the Lord, and remind yourself of the fact that we look to bring honor to God in everything that we do.