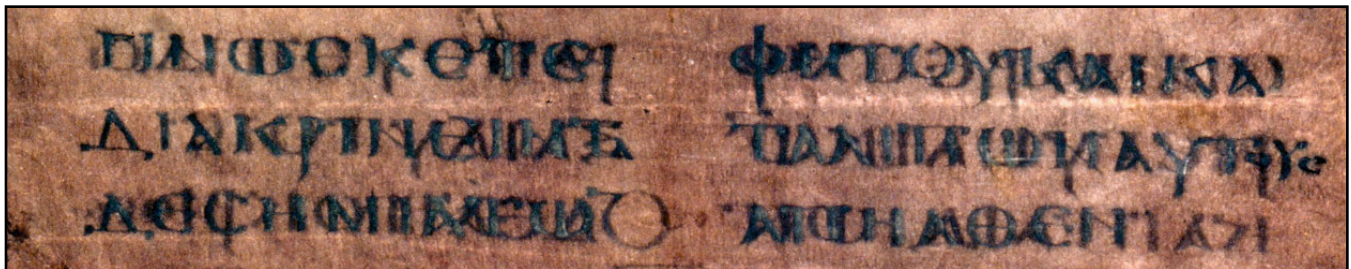


Small Group Study

Christ and Culture

From the sermon series, "Living a Christ-Centered Life"



Excerpt from a 6th century Greek New Testament

SCRIPTURE

Have volunteers read the following scriptures:

1 Corinthians 8:1-3; 9:19-23

QUESTIONS

Please feel free to adjust this study to fit your group's needs and to listen to the direction of the Holy Spirit. It is not necessary to use all of the questions.

1. Christians can know a great deal about the Bible, doctrine, church life, etc. but we are in danger of arrogance if all of that knowledge keeps us from building others up, from serving them, and from loving them the way Jesus wants us to. We can use our knowledge of Christianity to critically judge other believers and feel superior to them instead of using what we know to encourage them to grow in Christ. Knowledge is not the foundation of Christ-like behavior; love is. Reflect on the contrast between knowledge that puffs up and love that builds up. Have you known any Christians who demonstrated they had more knowledge than love? Have you ever been guilty of that?

2. How would one go about changing that?

3. Consider verses 9:19-23. Where, in your experience, has one person's "freedom" been another person's "stumbling block": Alcohol? Certain styles of clothes? Tattoos? Dance? Music? Lifestyle? Political issues? Have you ever limited your freedom for the sake of another?

Icebreakers

Use the questions below to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. Describe a time when you were overqualified for a particular job. Describe a time when you felt under-qualified.

2. Describe a volunteer position you held which was especially fulfilling.

3. In what three areas are you particularly knowledgeable?



4. What group of people are you especially aware of who need God's love: The poor? The homeless? Homosexuals? Those in nursing homes? Troubled teens?

5. What barriers are there between you and these groups?

6. What "rights" would you be willing to discard in order to love them?

God bless,

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