

COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER SERMON SUMMARY, 2/17/13

1 John 1:5-2:2 — "Getting Sin Right" Trent Hunter

In short: Central to salvation and a faithful Christian life is truthfulness about the problem of sin.

SUNDAY'S OUTLINE

True Christians...

1. See God for who he is
2. Hear lies for what they are
3. Go to Christ for all he is

HELP FOR OBSERVING, INTERPRETING, AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT

1. What is the significance of the first verse in this section of John's letter, verse 5?

John is beginning a section in which he addresses the seriousness of sin, but he begins by pointing his readers to the character of God. All theology leads to life, and all life follows from theology.

2. The subject of this sermon was sin, and specifically the various ways in which we may deceive ourselves in our sin. Which of the three ways Trent mentioned resonated with you most? Remember, embraced wholesale these lies demonstrate that someone is not a Christian, but they are temptations for us too.

Peter explains the deceitfulness of three lies concerning sin and the Christian: 1) that God doesn't have a problem with sin (ie. we can sleep around, hold a grudge, gossip without reservation, etc.), 2) that sin isn't a problem for us now that we are Christians (ie. we think sin is gone, or perhaps we functionally live like we don't sin through very rare occasions of confession to God or others), and 3) that sin never has been a problem for us (this shows up when a professing Christian or Christian denomination denies the sinfulness of sin and approves of sin as good).

3. Since this sermon dealt largely with the need for confession before God and Christian friends, is there a specific sin that came to mind during the sermon that needs confession that you would like to share with this group?
4. How can the gospel of free grace actually restrain us from careless living and compel us to faithfulness?
5. How have you seen obedience to the gospel transform a broken relationship? How has confession played a part in that?

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

- A.W. Tozer: "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."
- Charles Spurgeon: "It does not spoil your happiness to confess your sin. The unhappiness is in not making the confession."
- Charles Spurgeon: "As the salt flavors every drop in the Atlantic, so does sin affect every atom of our nature. It is so sadly there, so abundantly there, that if you cannot detect it, you are deceived."
- A.W. Tozer: The cross is the lightning rod of grace that short-circuits God's wrath to Christ so that only the light of His love remains for believers.
- Tim Keller's Prayer: Dear Father, my sin is ever before me. I have desired control and that has only produced fear. I have desired power over others and that has only served to alienate them from me. I have desired my own comfort and that has only brought forth anger when my comfort was not achieved. I have sought the approval of others and have meticulously kept them from seeing my true self for fear of rejection. Idolatry plagues my heart! I am consumed with thoughts of self-aggrandizement, self-promotion and self-service. In my deepest parts, I doubt that you are God and I want to rule myself. I cry out to you, Father. Only you can deliver me. Show me the cross. For without Jesus' glorious robe of righteousness to cover my nakedness, I'll die. Show me the love of my beautiful Saviour who gave up his glory and even his life that I might be delivered from idolatry. May the work of Jesus ever stir me towards radical, joyful obedience. May he be my reason for living and my eternal source of joy, hope, faith and love. Amen