

New Family, New Rules

NEW FAMILY:

1 Corinthians 6:11, 19-20, Romans 13:1-4, Acts 25:10-11, Colossians 1:22

You have been:

Washed: **completely made clean**

Sanctified: **set apart for a purpose**

Justified: **declared just**

All at a **huge price.**

NEW RULES:

1 Corinthians 6:1-8,12-20, 1 John 3:1-10, 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

#1 Put family first in **fight**s.

#2 Put family first in **freedom**s.

#3 Put family first in **our sexuality**.

KEEP OFF THE OLD LIST:

1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Ephesians 5:1-21, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Sexually immoral: **Sexual activity outside of marriage**

Idolater: **Worshipping a false God**

Adulterer: **Unfaithfulness in marriage**

Male prostitute: **Passive homosexual partners**

Homosexual offender: **All homosexual behavior**

Thieves: **Stealing**

Greedy: **Desiring to have more**

Drunkard: **Intoxicated**

Slanderer: **Verbally abusive**

Swindler: **Cheating, deceiving, or use of fraud**

Growth Group Homework

For the week of September 27, 2009

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you could choose one all expenses paid event to attend, which one would it be and why?

- Presidential Inauguration
- Filming of your favorite TV show
- An NFL playoff game (not the Super Bowl)
- Academy Awards
- Front row at a Broadway production
- Weekend at Larry's house
- Behind the scenes tour of Disneyland

2. This week we talked about new rules in the family. What were some family rules you're glad you had, wish you didn't have, or wish you would have had growing up?

3. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you, or raised a question?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We heard this weekend that becoming part of God's family includes some amazing new benefits along with new responsibilities. How does Paul further expand our understanding of what happens and what it means to become part of God's family in 2 Corinthians 5:17, 20-21?

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! [NIV]

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. [21] God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. [NIV]

How does what Paul says in this passage line up with your understanding and experience of what it means to be a follower of Christ and being part of the family of God?

- a) Totally relate
- b) Makes sense ... but still a bit confusing
- c) Have no idea what he's talking about
- d) Other

2. What strategies and help do the following verses give us on how to flee and avoid those temptations that have to do with our sexuality?

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! [13] No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. [NIV]

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. [NIV]

Proverbs 7:7-10

*I saw among the simple,
I noticed among the young men,
a youth who lacked judgment.
[8] He was going down the street near her corner,
walking along in the direction of her house
[9] at twilight, as the day was fading,
as the dark of night set in.

[10] Then out came a woman to meet him,
dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. [NIV]*

Proverbs 7:25-27

*Do not let your heart turn to her ways
or stray into her paths.
[26] Many are the victims she has brought down;
her slain are a mighty throng.
[27] Her house is a highway to the grave,
leading down to the chambers of death. [NIV]*

To prevent ourselves from falling, we need to set up safeguards to avoid temptation. We also need to develop strategies to help us flee from temptation. Can you think of any safeguards or strategies you have seen others utilize or you yourself have in place to avoid sexual temptation? If so, explain.

... at work

... at home

... in your personal or social life

3. This week we saw the importance of family and God's design for it. The benefit of being part of a family is the support and encouragement we receive. How does Hebrews 10:24-25 reinforce this idea?

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. [25] Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. ^[NIV]

Can you think of any ways someone else can best encourage you toward growth in your commitment to Christ?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back at this week's sermon and study on putting "Family First," is there anything you'd specifically pray for?

2. Are there any temptation avoidance or exit strategies you feel like you need to add or refocus in your life?

3. Any other prayer requests?

Prayer is an important part of being in Growth Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.
Group prayer goes best when...

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one's required to pray out loud.