GRACE groups

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

Post Grad Group Agenda

Lesson 6 – Week of November 2nd

1. Mingling and catching up. (10 minutes) __:00 - __:10
2. Begin with a short prayer for your time together. (5 minutes) __:10 - __:15
3. Move to a time of accountability. (20 minutes) __:15 - __:35

   i. **Accountability Questions on your Evangelism & Witness**
   - ☐ Have you prayed for the salvation of unbelievers by name this week?
   - ☐ Did you have any opportunities to share the gospel, and how did you respond?
   - ☐ Has your conduct reflected Christ to unbelievers around you? Explain.
   - ☐ Have you invited anyone to a REACH event, to church or Bible study?
   - ☐ Did you answer spiritual questions with humility and clarity?

   ii. **Homework**
   - ☐ Did you accomplish at least five devotionals this week?
   - ☐ Did you read *Union with Christ*, Ch. 2, “The Starting Point"& "Debunking Misunderstandings?
   - ☐ Did you complete the Bible Study on Ephesians 2:11-22?

4. Lesson Time. (40-55 minutes) __:35 - __:15 __:35 - __:30

From the Bible study on Ephesians 2:11-22

i. Question 3: What do the images of citizenship, household, and temple each reveal about the new community Christ creates?
Suggested answer: Citizenship stresses belonging, household stresses family, and temple stresses God’s presence. Together they describe one reconciled people in whom God dwells by the Spirit.

ii. Question 4: Paul says Christ is the “cornerstone” and the whole structure is built on “the foundation of the apostles and prophets” (v. 20). What is the significance of Christ, not any human leader or tradition, being named as the cornerstone specifically?
Suggested answer: The cornerstone determines the building’s alignment and stability. Christ, not a human leader, holds the new community together and gives it its shape.

iii. Question 6: Verse 22 says believers are “being built together” into a dwelling place for God “in the Lord” — an ongoing, corporate, unfinished process, not a private or solitary project. Where do you sense God currently building you together with specific people (your small group, family, church) rather than growing on your own?

From *Union with Christ*

iv. Question 1: Billings says every biblical image of salvation has a "corresponding" or "negative corollary" image of sin. Using John 15:5 and Colossians 2:13, what specific images does he pair together?
Suggested answer: John 15 pairs life and fruitfulness in the vine with the inability to do anything apart from Christ; Colossians 2 pairs death in trespasses with being made alive together with Christ.

v. Question 2: Billings argues we cannot embrace scripture's language of union with Christ while quietly discarding its accompanying language about sin. What is he warning against, practically, in church life or personal theology?
Suggested answer: He warns against embracing the attractive language of communion while minimizing the depth of sin and our inability to initiate saving movement toward God. The remedy is as radical as the diagnosis.

vi. Question 3: Where have you been tempted to credit your spiritual growth to your own effort rather than to the Spirit's initiating work?

vii. Question 4: Billings notes that many in our culture assume freedom means "absolute, individualistic autonomy" — choosing above every outside influence. Where in your life does that assumption — that true freedom means total independence — quietly shape your decisions?

5. Prayer time (15 minutes) __:15 - __:30 __:30 - __:45
   i. Ask for specific prayer requests from members.
   ii. Pray for one another as you wish.
   iii. Write down these prayer requests so you can follow up in the next meeting.

HOMEWORK

Week of November 9th

- ☐ Complete Galatians 2:20 Bible study.
- ☐ Read *Billings* Ch. 2, "Augustine and His Reformed Reception."
- ☐ Decide who will be facilitating next week. The agenda can be **found online**.

** Make sure you fill out the "Weekly Feedback Form" and the "Post Grad Group Facilitator Evaluation" at http://gracehamptons.org/postgrad