

## **WHY SMALL GROUPS?**

### **A Small Group Discussion on Small Groups**

CJ Mahaney, in his book *Why Small Groups?*, suggests four Scriptural benefits of small groups. We're going to discuss these four benefits through the following questions:

#### **1) Sanctification**

Quick summary: At salvation, you experienced "justification (Rom. 3:21-26, 5:1-2, etc.)." Justification is an instantaneous act for those who place their faith in Christ's finished work on the cross resulting in the forgiveness of their sins and being declared righteous. This is our *position* before God as Christians.

Once we become Christians, we experience "progressive sanctification (Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:10, etc.)." Sanctification is the ongoing work of God in a believer's life that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives. This is our *practice* before God as long as we live.

According to Hebrews 3:13, 10:23-25 and Ephesians 4:15-25, what are some practical ways that we as Christians can help each other grow in sanctification?

Based on this definition of sanctification and these verses, how can you imagine small groups helping each other in this process?

#### **2) Mutual Care & 3) Fellowship**

How do the following verses help us understand the mutual care we should have for our fellow Christians: I John 3:16-18; Galatians 6:2?

How does our growth in sanctification effect our fellowship with each other according to I John 1:6-9? How does James 5:16 connect to this discussion? What do these verses say about the type of "atmosphere" Christian small groups should display (see also Eph. 4:29-32)?

#### **4) The Ministry of the Holy Spirit**

Read I Corinthians 12:12-26. How has the Holy Spirit equipped the church? What does this passage say about us as individuals? As a group? How can we see these verses play out in a practical way in our small groups?

Summary: How have you benefitted from small groups in the past? What are some areas of your life that this small group can help you as you grow in Christ in this season?