

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2009

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS
Love Incorruptible

"We are to a large degree the sum of our loves, and we will of moral necessity grow into the image of what we love most."

-A.W. Tozer

"When we cease to worship God, we do not worship nothing, we worship anything"

-G.K. Chesterton

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

-Matthew 16:25

THIS WEEK'S TEXT
Ephesians 6:21-24

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

Col 2:2, 4:7-9; (Tychicus also appears in: Acts 20:4, 2Tim 4:12, Titus 3:12); Gal 5:6, 6:16; 1 Thes 5:8; 2 Thes 3:16; 1 Pet 5:14; 1 Cor 16:22; Rev 2

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
 - Paul's reason for sending Tychicus
 - The type of man Paul sends with this message
 - The intended affect of such an action
 - The elements of Paul's blessing to the church at Ephesus
 - The qualified recipients of such blessing
 - The nature of the church's love for Jesus

- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the church at Ephesus then, what do they mean for us now?**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- How would you define freedom? Do you perceive yourself as having freedom, or do you experience a level of enslavement to the things you love most?
- In the sermon this week, JR said that we make decisions based on what we love most. What is a recent decision you made where that principle is clear? What was the ruling love?
- How does Jesus' act of surrender encourage you to obey his demands of surrender?
- In what ways do you need to increase "time and truth" in your spiritual formation?
- What area of your spiritual life could be described as having "function" without "essence"? Generally speaking, where is this idea most evident in the Church as a whole?

"I turned from you, whom alone I should have sought, and lost myself instead on many a different quest."

–St. Augustine

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Eph 6:18b

This Week: Eph 6:24

PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church (September):

Apostles Church wants to be a people who intentionally connect others to Jesus. We will authentically, compassionately, and intelligently dialogue with the culture about the Gospel of Jesus.

In Response to the Text:

- Praising God for being the most lovely, glorious thing in existence
- Praising God for his gracious dealing with those who oppose Him
- Confessing our various idolatries
- Confessing our continual attempts at function without essence
- Thanking Jesus for fulfilling both function and essence of godliness
- Thanking the Holy Spirit for indwelling us and giving us love incorruptible
- Asking God to give us a supreme love for Himself
- Asking God to incline us to time with Him and open us to truth about Him

FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *The Four Loves* – C.S. Lewis
- *Pursuit of God* – A.W. Tozer
- *Confessions* – St. Augustine

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

Ephesians 5:22-33 (We're going to head back into chapter five to address this passage for three weeks)