

CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY (C3) HOMEWORK

“Edifying the body by embracing the grace of the Spirit to live out the love of the Son in fellowship that glorifies the Father”



WARM UP

What are you most looking forward to or excited about in C3 this fall? Why?

(Use this as an opportunity to assess the needs of your group. Begin to figure out where your group needs to grow most by what they want to engage in most.)

What was your favorite part, session, or thing you learned at the iServe Conference?

DIGGING DEEPER

Reflecting on Dr Zukeran’s message and the iServe conference, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful, or difficult to grasp?

(Since these questions are being written before the message and I don’t know the content of the message, you may want to spend a lot of time here. If there is good conversation, feel free to stay on this question the whole time! This is an opportunity for you as the leader to shape discussion and talk about the topics you felt led towards.)

Read 1 Peter 3:13-17.

a) What are the two commands in verse 15?

Set Jesus apart as Lord (Master, King, Sovereign) of your heart

Always be ready to give a defense for the hope in you

b) What is the “hope that is in you”? And what doctrines or Biblical ideas would you use to explain that?

The hope in you is the gospel – the good news we are saved from God’s wrath through the death of Jesus and saved to know and enjoy God for eternity. The idea of “hope” implies both the content of the gospel *and* the confidence you have in that content.

(Feel free to talk about any of these ideas or to skip over this, but this is designed to challenge people to ask themselves how well they can explain the gospel and the basis of the hope they have)

The doctrines this includes that Christian’s should be able to explain is: God exists and created everything, the story of Jesus, the story of the Bible, how we are created and saved for God’s glory, how we are saved from God’s wrath (salvation), how we are restored to a relationship with God (reconciliation), the satisfaction of God’s just wrath in Jesus (propitiation), being bought back from the penalty of death (redemption), how we will be restored to a right image of God to worship Him for all eternity (glorification), etc.

c) The command to “always be ready to give a defense” is where we get the modern word Apologetics. In the original language, it meant to give a logical and well-reasoned answer for something. With this command in mind, why is it important to know what you believe and why you believe it (according to the Bible)?

(Again, this is designed to challenge people to think about what they believe and why)

How can you know what you believe?

How can you get better at knowing why you believe?

d) What parts of the Bible or Christianity would you have a hard time explaining to someone?

(Use this question to help people see weaknesses they may have in explaining the Bible or Christianity and challenge them to learn! If you have a hard time explaining something, go learn more about it. Research and study or go watch a sermon on YouTube to explain it to you.)

e) What fears hold you back from sharing the hope in you (your faith)?

Fear of rejection/ridicule and not knowing what to say are the most common answers.

f) What comforts do 1 Peter 3:13-17 and Luke 12:12 give to help overcome those fears?

If you suffer for the truth you are blessed. If you are faithful to what you are called to (good conscience), those who ridicule you will be ashamed. Sometimes it is the will of God to suffer for good and that is better. The Holy Spirit will give you words to say in the midst of difficult circumstances.

The Bible make it clear that we must know the truth and be ready to share the truth, but the way we share is just as important as the words we share. Read these passages and write down any observation on how are supposed to share and why those attitudes are important:

1 Peter 3:15 – gentle and respectful

2 Cor 5:20 – We are supposed to share as ambassadors (representatives) of Christ. As if God were speaking through us!

1 Cor 13:2 – love

Col 4:5-6 – wisdom, grace, discernment, and respond in way that makes people thirsty for God (seasoned with salt)

Proverbs 15:1-2 – gentleness, wisdom

2 Corinthians 5:20 tells us that we are supposed to be Christ's ambassadors. An ambassador represents a king and speaks on behalf of who they represent. How often are you actively acting as an ambassador to unbelievers? How can you be a more effective ambassador of Christ?

(This is an application question so be discerning in how you ask people to share on this one.)

How can you be a better ambassador?

How can you be an active ambassador this week?