

Series: Core 2011

Preached @ ECCC by Grant Peers on 11th September, 2011

Scripture: John 13:33-35;

17:20-23

CELL GROUP DISCUSSION STARTERS

OPENING QUESTION

1. Do you see yourself as involved in God's mission in this world, and if so how?

CONTENT EXPLANATION

Read John 13:33-35

2. What kind of love does Jesus want us to show to 'one another'?
3. Why is it important that we love people like this (vs 35)?
4. How is it a testimony to the world?
5. The gospel redefined relations between Jew and Gentile. Read Acts 10:9-16, 10:27-29, Galatians 2:11-14.
 - a. Discuss how Peter was overcome by the cultural pressure that he faced from the Jews.
 - b. How is what Peter faced similar to the situation under South African apartheid?
 - c. Why does an unconditional love and acceptance of those who are not like us testify to the gospel?

Read John 17:20-23

6. According to these verses, why will the world 'believe that [the Father] send [Jesus]' (17:21b, 23b)?
7. Discuss the impact of these statements on your Christianity:
Before [Christians] are preachers, leaders, or church planters, [we] are to be lovers.¹

AND

People need to encounter the church as a network of caring relationships rather than a meeting you attend or a place you enter².

CONTENT APPLICATION

8. How can your cell group be a community that is open to outsiders (ans: eating together)?
9. Bible studies (cell groups) are traditionally the preserve of Christians. Why would you resist opening your group to non-Christians?
10. What other opportunities can you use to introduce people our community of Christians?

¹ Chester and Timmis, Total Church, pg 54

² Ibid. Pg 56