

Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

April 13, 2008

Focus: To explore a life lived dominated by the world's values verses a life lived dominated by Christ's values.

I John - Lesson #7 Embracing God's Way of Life

Introduction: John has been begging his readers to be different from the Gnostic culture they are living in. You hear this idea in scripture over and over again that we are called to be different from the world around us. We are to reject our very nature and choose God's way of life. Let's begin tonight by...

- Define the values of this "post-Christian" culture we live in. (self, money, stuff, never satisfied, etc.)
- Contrast that list with the values of a Christ follower (compassion, others first, love, humility, etc.)
- Share stories of Jesus followers who have chosen to live as Christ...those people who you are encouraged and challenged by when you look at their life.

Text: I John 2:15-17...John has just finished asking these Christians to remember what life is like with Christ. He is now ready to compare the life of Christ with the life of the world.

- Read the text
- Share your general observations about what John is trying to say here.
- Assess the three sins common to those who choose the world.
 1. Life dominated by selfishness- without control...sex, food, etc
 2. Life dominated by money- nothing is ever enough
 3. Life dominated by pride- trying to impress
- Evaluate the results (vs.17) John expects from this way of life

Application:

- Share what parts of the world are most appealing to you and why.
- Describe what life is like for you when you have chosen the world.
- Share stories of your life when you have chosen to live as Christ.
- Share how these times in your life compare with the times you have chosen the world.
- How can we as a group hold you accountable this week?