

# Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

May 18, 2008

*Focus:* To explore what fights we as Christians need to fight and the ones we need to let go.

## I John - Lesson #12 Fighting the Right Fights

**Introduction:** In class on Sunday we were having a discussion on where we face opposition in our walks with Christ. I am still thinking about one woman's answer as she teared up. Her basic thought was this...I have never been more hurt than by people inside the church. We looked in the book at Acts to see that this was not an uncommon occurrence. Church people many times simply hurt each other!

- Begin tonight with a discussion centered on why this is often true?
- Describe behaviors that have become acceptable in church culture that are not of Christ. (gossip, hate, slander, etc)
- Are we actively questioning these actions/thoughts?
- Is it ok in our group for me to question/challenge your thinking/behavior? How would you respond if I did?

**Text: I John 4:1-6**...Don't forget the Gnostic thought that John is addressing here. The Gnostics communicated that Jesus was not essential as they "spiritualized" their way of following God. He is begging them here not to just go with the flow but to question the thoughts and attitudes being presented to them.

- Read the text
- How would one test a spirit?
- Why is John coming back to this idea again?
- "The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world"...Assess why John gives this reminder again.
- Explain the freedom John is speaking about in verse 5 & 6.

**Application:** I don't think there are any of us here tonight that would deny that Jesus is the Christ. However, there are many ways of living out that claim to be "Christian" that don't look much like Jesus.

- Describe the "spirits" that need to be tested in our church and culture today.
- Churches are known to fight about a lot of things...based on our text tonight, describe what John thinks is worth fighting for.

- Do you look more like Jesus today than you did a year ago? Remember...the one who is in your is greater than the one who is in the world!