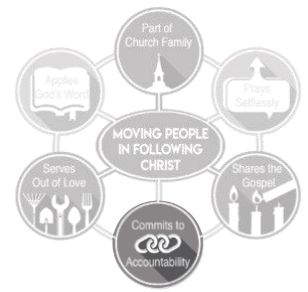


LIFE GROUP SESSION: ACCOUNTABLE (session two)

This session is based on the second & third sermons in this series – ‘A Place of Truth’ and ‘A Place of Transformation’.



MESSAGE SUMMARY

Ephesians 4:1-16; Romans 12:1-8

Three theological foundations: Grace Was Given (Eph 4:7) – *we can be honest and real about our lives because we know we are all broken and only saved by grace, not our works.* Ascended Far Above (Eph 4:10) – *often we avoid telling the truth because we aim to control or manipulate situations, however Jesus is the one far above all things; He is in control.* He Gave (Eph 4:11) – *we have people around us to lead, teach, and help us grow more like Christ.*

Trust & Truth: which one comes first? We shouldn't necessarily wait for trust to tell the truth. Instead, we tell the truth to build proper trust. Also, God promises to forgive, cleanse, heal and restore us as we are honest before Him and before each other (see 1 John 1:9; James 5:16)

Truth & Love: we are to be different to the world around us, as we follow Jesus and speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15). *"Truth without love is imperious self-righteousness. Love without truth is cowardly self-indulgence."* (Timothy Keller). This work, this balance, requires nothing less than the power and wisdom of ascended King Jesus.

Transformation: the truth of the Gospel & God's Word will change us, set us free (see John 8:31-32). It isn't just about 'not sinning', it is about becoming 'holy', and more & more like Jesus.

Our transformation is a response to what God has done and it is always a response. We need to constantly point people to God's finished work, and then figure out what we do because of that.

Transformation is never just about us. It happens in us, but also happens through us. We are the body of Christ, pointing each other to Him, and pointing the world to Him, becoming agents of change.

DISCUSSION

ICE BREAKER: Last session, you decided on one thing to help us grow closer to God. Follow each other up. How did you go? If you didn't do it, why not? How could we have helped each other more?

READ: Romans 12:1-8

- We are called to not conform to the world, to be transformed and do it together as a body. How do we do this? Particularly as a Life Group, what are some practical steps to this happening in us?
- Transformation takes place "in view of God's mercy". How would you summarise the Gospel? What are different metaphors, images, stories, or verses that capture the essence of the Gospel? How can we better keep the Gospel central in our lives, families, ministries and Life Group?

READ: Ephesians 4:15

- What areas in your life do you need to be more honest, real, truthful? How can you ensure you remain loving as you speak the truth?
- The common theme of Ephesians 4 & Romans 12 is that we are to grow & transform and we don't do it alone, it is within the context of the body. How can we rely each other more and move away from the individualism of our Western culture?

A big thing here is a theological shift: "The Holy Spirit doesn't merely empower His people as individuals. He fills and empowers the church collectively."

READ: John 8:31-36 (note: freedom is linked with sonship. This is the Gospel. Abide in it, know it, be set free)

PRAY: Pray that God will continue to help foster relationships of truth & transformation within our church. Pray that we can abide in God's Word, in His truth, together, and become more like Him as we do.