

LIFE Group Discussion Questions

“Speaking Truth” – 1 Peter 2:1, James 5:16, Ephesians 4:25, 29

March 14, 2010

Summary:

I believe we need to be more honest with one another about our sins and weaknesses, so that our fellowship can be more truly biblical. There are many struggles, problems and fractured relationships that no one knows about. We often do not feel safe talking about these things because we all are trying to look and act like we are "together." We all know better. Behind the smiling faces on Sunday are some deep spiritual struggles that need to be shared, prayed over and healed by God's grace. That's how the Body of Christ is designed to function. The Bible encourages us to put aside hypocrisy (trying to put forth a false image of ourselves that we are better or more together than we really are, 1 Pet. 2:1). We are encouraged instead to confess our sins to one another and pray for each other so we may be healed (James 5:16). We are also encouraged to tell each other the truth because we are members of the same Body of Christ and His name is at stake (Eph. 4:25). We are not as together as we would like to portray ourselves. So why not be honest about our sinfulness, our fallenness, our weakness, so we can pray for each other and demonstrate the healing love of God towards one another. Somebody has to take the initiative, trusting God that as we step out of our comfort zone and become more transparent and vulnerable, the Holy Spirit will work and we will be changed.

Questions:

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, where are we as a church on openness, honesty, and transparency? (One being closed, shallow, "surface-y", 10 being deeply open and biblically honest)
2. Why don't we confess our sins more to one another?
3. What will move us to do it more?
4. What are the boundary lines for appropriate vs. inappropriate truth –telling?
5. Share examples of inappropriate confessing and truth – telling? Malicious, hurtful...
6. Discuss how truth- telling can be both painful and edifying...
7. Anybody want to take the initiative? confess some brokenness tonight?
8. Anyone willing to share an area of strong temptation? A frustrating weakness? A long-standing struggle that is not going away?
9. What good things happen as we learn to confess our faults to one another?
10. Discuss or share an example of how we grow as we speak the truth in love...

Rabbit Trail of the Week:

Sermons seem to get high ratings when the pastor shares his sins and weaknesses. Why is that?