



Dgroup Discussion Guide for April 12, 2015

Christians Beware: Are you the Problem or are you the solution?

SCRIPTURE: *Ephesians 6:10-12* Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- Christianity is facing a lot of problems. Many people no longer believe that religion is necessary in life. This is where the downfall of Christianity begins.
- Christ's victory over death should be a daily reminder to us how important it is to live a fruitful and meaningful Christian life.
- Unfortunately, we have become so complacent that we no longer live lives that are glorifying to God. We no longer strive to become more and more like Christ.
- We who call ourselves followers of Jesus Christ have become comfortable where we are refusing to step out of our comfort zones, and content to just blend into the world and not live lives that stand out.
- This is the PROBLEM: Christians look more like the world than Christ.
- The appeal of the world has over-run our desire to become more and more like Christ.
- There is a constant tug-of-war between the world/Satan and Christians to become witnesses for Jesus Christ.
- The root of the problem is that we have succumb into the complacency and lies of the enemy.
- There is a need for Christians to wake up and be reminded of who we are.

We have to ask ourselves: Are we part of the problem or part of the solution?

Proverbs 29:18 *If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.*

- God gave us a vision of what we should do and who we should be – we need to re-align ourselves with God's vision for us so that we can find meaning to our existence.
- We have to continue to work at our disciple-making process. . . for our own growth and for the growth of our community.
- We have to continue striving and transforming into Christ-likeness.

Ephesians 5:15-17 *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*

Romans 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

- The sad truth is we have become so comfortable in the world that we have forgotten to strive for and yearn for God's vision.
- God's will for us is for us to die to ourselves and to live in His Son Jesus Christ.
- We are to grow and mature in Christlike-ness to become more and more like Christ.
- We must not content be mere Christians, but rather strive to become followers of Christ. Emulating Him in every aspect of our lives – in how we think, in how we talk, in how we respond to others and to events. . . every moment, every movement in our life must be motivated by our love for God and our understanding of the grace that we have been given.

- **Romans 6:11** says *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*
- We have to die to our old self and live in God's righteousness.
- The best way to do this is to make disciples.
- The Great Commission tells us to *teach them to obey all that Christ commanded*

Our challenge today is: WE NEED TO BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION and not the problem.

Philippians 2:2-8 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:⁶ Who, being in very nature^[a] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

- Let us be a part of the solution and not the problem.
- Discipleship is helping the believer grow in Christ-like maturity in order to bear much fruit.
- God bless us with His ABIDING PRESENCE when we MAKE DISCIPLES who sparkle like CHRIST to attract others to Christ thereby reversing the negative trends of Christianity





OBSERVATION:

Study the passage. What details stand out to you the most? You can also re-write the passage in your own words to make it more personal.

1. Read the bible verses cited above. Which bible verse spoke to you the most?
2. Do we really love God to stop giving excuses on why we cannot disciple others and lead them to Christlikeness?
3. Reflect on: Philippians 2:1-8

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: How have I contributed to the problem? Am I actively and intentionally contributing to the solution?</p>
	<p>Family: How have we as a family become part of the complacency problem of Christianity today? How can we as a family become a part of the solution to awaken the need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ to the people around me? How can we improve in our discipleship in the family?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Do people around you see the love of Jesus? How do you share or emulate the love of Jesus to others? By looking at your life – your words and actions, can they tell you are a follower of Jesus?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: Is God prompting you to work in His ministry? How can you best be a witness of God's grace and love? How do intend to show that you are a follower of Jesus? (Be specific)</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.