

Personal/Small Group Study Notes

Week of June 13, 2021, A.D.

Who Needs God?

With all of our wealth and accomplishments, does the church really need God anymore? Let's talk about that in this week's lesson.

Read 1 John 2:15-17

1. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Lust is usually an intense or unbridled sexual desire. But, lust can also be an intense desire for power, money, fame, or pleasure in general."
2. Why does John use the words "the lust of his eyes"? Can a blind person have "lust"? Does lust involve more than seeing? In your opinion, is lust always sinful? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read Galatians 5:16-18

3. To "gratify" means to give pleasure or satisfaction. Is it always sinful to have pleasure and/or to feel satisfaction? If so, why? If not, why not? Please explain your answers.
4. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement. "The difference between a Christian and a non-believer is that a Christian always wants to please Christ and a non-believer always wants to please only herself or himself."
5. Refer to verse 18. What does it mean to be "led by the Spirit"? What does Paul mean when he says that "you are not under the law"? Are Christians free to willingly disobey the law of God? Are non-Christians free to willingly disobey the law of God? Does sin always have consequences? Please explain your answers.

Read Galatians 5:19-21

6. Please describe and discuss how the "acts of the sinful nature" which are listed in these verses compare with "everything in the world" which is listed in 1 John 2:16. Is there anything in either list which is not also (expressly or by implication) found in the other list? Take your time. Think. Then please explain your answers.

7. Refer to verse 21. What does Paul mean when he says, “those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God”?

Read Galatians 5:22-26

8. How does verse 26 relate to 1 John 2:16? If verse 24 is true, then how can a Christian ever sin? If verse 24 is true, then why is the teaching of verses 25 and 26 even necessary? Please explain your answers.

Read 1 John 2:15-17

9. Refer to verse 16. How common in America is “the boasting of what he has and does”? How common in the church in America is “the boasting of what he has and does”? Please state some common examples of this “boasting” in: sports; government; the education system; personal possessions (cars, houses, money, vacations, etc.); parenting; and, any other area of life that you wish to mention. Does the level of boasting in America reflect positively, negatively, or not at all on the “salt and light” influence of the church in America? (See Matthew 5:13-16) Please explain your answers.
10. Please refer to verse 17. Is that verse true? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
11. In your opinion, is America on the verge of (a) moral; (b) financial; and/or (c) physical collapse? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
12. In your opinion, is the American church currently (a) seeking the will of God? (b) doing the will of God? and/or (c) more in love with the world than it is in love with God? Please explain the reasons for (and the likely consequences of) your answers.

Consider: For more than 5,800 years of human history, mankind lived in relative poverty and hardship when compared to the current standard of wealth and comfort in our culture. Jesus said, “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?” Has the American church sold its soul to the devil? “You think about that.” Amen.