

Group Resource

Sermon Notes – Sunday, October 28, 2012

ONE ANOTHER

Message: “Living According To God’s Code”

Scripture: Luke 6:27-36

All of us are taught various codes of living from our parents, culture, friends, and experiences, but when we give our lives to Christ, we walk according to a different code that supersedes everything – Doing to others as we would have them do to us (Golden Rule).

- I. 1 - Christians are called to live according to a different code.
 - a. The first part of the code is that we are called to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and the second is likewise, to love our neighbors as ourselves.
 - b. This second command can be paraphrased by verse 31 of Luke 6, “*Do to others as you would have them do to you.*” (Golden Rule – THE CODE)
 - c. God mandates that Christians act with a higher level of regard for everyone because, through Christ, we are called to live differently than those who are without Christ.
 - d. If our only desire is for people to please us or to make us feel good, then our application of the Golden Rule will always be skewed. Rather, we should want people to give us what is best for us, so that, in all things, we can become what God has called us to be.
- II. 2 - We cannot control what others do to us but we CAN control what we do to them.
 - a. Four things that we can add to our arsenal of tools in dealing with others. (v27-28)
 - i. **Love** them / **Do good** to them / **Bless** them / and **Pray** for them
 - b. God expects that our Christianity encompasses how we deal with those who are difficult to get along with, even our enemies.
- III. 3 - The strength to abide by God’s code can only come from Him.
 - a. When dealing with those who seem unloveable, we can’t ignore them, walk away from them, or destroy them. We have to deal with them according to who we are in Christ – the redeemed of the Lord! (v32-34)
 - b. We are not excused from walking in Godly behavior just because we encounter ungodly behavior in others.
 - c. Jesus operated according to this code by being kind to the ungrateful and wicked (v35). As disciples of Christ, Jesus expects us to do the same.
- IV. 4 - The reward for living according to God’s code may not be immediately apparent but living by God’s code will always bear fruit in the long run
 - a. You reap what you sow. If you sow worldliness, you will reap worldliness. If you sow godliness, you will reap godliness. This happens because God is at work ensuring that justice prevails even though we are living in a world filled with injustice.

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Let's Talk Notes – Week of October 28, 2012

Message: "Living According to God's Code"

Scripture: Luke 6:27-36

- 1) Has anyone ever done something positive for you that you didn't expect them to do? How did it make you feel? Did their actions change your relationship with them?
- 2) As you reflect back on last weekend's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?
- 3) Jesus tells us in Luke 6, that we are called to respond differently to challenges than how the world responds. How does this code challenge us to show grace and mercy to others, while still challenging us to maintain appropriate boundaries? (i.e. *not being weak but meek*)

"While 'turning the other cheek' stands in deliberate tension with the way one normally thinks and lives, it illustrates a powerful principle that must be taken seriously when we encounter similar situations. Even when wrongfully abused, our course of action must always be governed by the higher principles of the kingdom, not the mere satisfaction of personal rights." [The College Press NIV Commentary]

- 4) **Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22.** How did David respond to the opportunity to get even with King Saul for trying to kill him? How did David's choice to live according to God's code change King Saul's attitude towards him. (See 1 Samuel 24:17-20).
- 5) Jesus gives four tools that Christians can use when dealing with difficult situations. He instructs each of us to: "**Love** your enemies, **do good** to those who hate you, ²⁸ **bless** those who curse you, **pray** for those who mistreat you" (v27-28). What are some practical ways that you can implement each of the 4 tools:
 - a. Loving your enemies
 - b. Doing good to those who hate you
 - c. Blessing those who curse you
 - d. Praying for those who mistreat you
- 6) Often, the hardest part of living according to God's code is the feeling that justice will never be served to those who have wronged us unless we get revenge. Do you feel this way at times? Why doesn't God want us to think this way? (**Read** Romans 12:17-21)
- 7) Are there any other difficulties that you have with living according to God's code in dealing with others? When you are tempted to take matters into your own hands and to operate outside of God's code, what can you do to get yourself back on track?