



CITIZENS CHURCH

“Mortification”

Live Like a Christian

Week 1 | June 4th, 2023

Community Group Discussion Guide

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership Class

Sunday, June 11 | 4pm-6:30pm

We believe the church is central to all God is doing in the world. When you read the New Testament, wherever the gospel is proclaimed, people believe, disciples are made, and then churches are formed. When you put your faith in Jesus, you don't just get God as your Father, but you are now put in relationship with other Christians who are your brothers and sisters in Christ. You are now a part of the larger global Church, lived out in small local expressions, such as Citizens Church Charlotte.

This is why membership is so important. It's you committing to play your role in the larger family of God through a particular local congregation.

Our Membership Class is the first step towards membership at Citizens Church. If you're interested in becoming a member at Citizens, or just interested in finding out more about who we are, join us Sunday, June 11th from 4pm-6:30pm.

Coffee + light refreshments are provided. Childcare is also provided, but please register in advance.

[MORE INFO](#)

Parenting Class

Sunday, June 18 or July 9 | 11am-12:15pm

Becoming a parent is equal parts exciting, nerve-racking, and exhausting. Your schedule changes, your rhythms change, and sometimes even your friendships change. With many families in our church becoming first-time parents, we want to help equip new moms and dads to be the best parents they can be. We also want to provide help and encouragement for the moms and dads who feel as if they aren't up to the task.

We'll be hosting a Parenting Class on June 18th and July 9th (you only need to register for one of the times).

This class is required for everyone who wishes to participate in the Parent Commissioning at the Gathering on Sunday, August 20th.

Parents with children of any age are welcome to attend.

Childcare is provided for the class if needed.

[MORE INFO](#)

Community Group Member Updates

Use the remaining time to let group members share any big life updates they have for the group. Examples could be Missional updates/people to pray for, life updates such as moving, job changes, or big prayer requests.

SERIES RECAP

Over the next two weeks we will spend time talking about sanctification from Colossians 3. Sanctification is the Bible's word for the work of God, over the course of our lives, where He shapes us, through our active participation, to look more like Jesus.

During these two weeks, we recommend groups split up men and women, as we believe the questions during scripture and sermon discussion, lend themselves to a Care and Prayer style of conversation.

PRAYER + SCRIPTURE

The most vital component of our time together tonight is the Spirit of God making alive to us the Word of God. So we will start with prayer. We will open with a short prayer, take a minute or two of silent reflection, read the Scripture from Sunday, take one more minute of silent reflection, then close in prayer."

Open with a brief word of prayer: "God, we thank you for this time together. We open our hearts to how you might want to meet with us. Allow us to hear your voice and experience your work among us. Come Holy Spirit."

1-2 minutes of silent reflection.

Read Colossians 3:1-11

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

1-2 minutes of silent reflection.

Close with this short prayer: "God, we are a rebellious and sinful people, even those you have saved. Spirit, help us see the sin in our life and the ways you empower us to fight it. Christ, thank you for taking the penalty of our sin so we can freely fight sin out of the love you shared for us."

As you reflect on Colossians 3:1-11, what is the Holy Spirit showing or teaching you?

SERMON DISCUSSION

Let's have a discussion around these main points from Sunday's teaching:

WHAT IS EARTHLY AMONG YOU

Paul outlines specific areas of what is earthly in us, that is what is not "of God" in us. They are sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, coveting, idolatry, anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk. (**for definitions see below**)

Which of these (or another sin if applicable) are you struggling with right now?

PUT SIN TO DEATH

In the sermon, we heard three ways we can join God in putting our sin to death.

1. We agree with God that our sin is sin and it is serious.
2. We continue walking in our spiritual practices.
3. We submit all parts of our life to the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, asking ourselves "does this help me be more in love with Jesus?"

Which of these do you need to press into to put the sin you are struggling with to death?

HIDDEN WITH CHRIST

James 1:22 challenges followers of Jesus to "be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

As Christians, we have spiritually died with Christ, and rose again with Him. We are free from both the penalty and power of sin, and therefore can put to death the action and attitudes of sin in our lives. In other words – Saying no to sin doesn't make you a Christian. Being a Christian makes you say no to sin.

If you are a Christian, saved by the life and death of Jesus, what are tangible ways you can work to put sin to death this week?

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray over what was shared in the discussion, for your group to be united in the gospel, and for help from the Holy Spirit to be shaped to be more like Jesus as we put God's ways into practice.

DEFINITIONS OF VARIOUS SINS FROM COLOSSIANS 3

Sexual Immorality – Any sexual activity you give your body or mind to that is not in God's design for sex between a man and a woman in the covenant of marriage. This is lust in your heart, fantasy, pornography, sexual desire for someone you're not married to.

Impurity – Moral corruption.

Passion + Evil Desire – Impulses or compulsions that are out of step with God's desire for your life.

Covetousness – Unhealthy desire of what someone else has.

Idolatry – worshiping something or someone other than God.

Anger + Wrath – Unholy lashing out at other, holding grudges, holding in our hearts bitterness and frustration against one another.

Malice + Slander – Using our speech to bring harm to someone else by saying untrue and/or hurtful things about them to others.

Obscene Talk – Using our words to bring harm to someone else by saying hurtful things directly to them.