



## **How We Treat One Another**

*Group Discussion Guide  
Week of May 12, 2024*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **FAMILY MEETING**

*Saturday, June 1 | 4pm*

*Clanton Pavilion (3132 Manchester Dr, Charlotte, NC 28217)*

On Saturday, June 1st we will hold our semi-annual Family Meeting. This is a chance for us as a church to celebrate God's faithfulness, to commemorate what He is doing in our church, to worship together, and to look for what God might do in the months ahead.

This year, we are doing it church potluck style! Citizens will be providing pulled pork for dinner. If your last name starts with A-N bring a side, if O-Z bring a dessert to share!

#### **MEMBERSHIP CLASS**

*Sunday, June 9 | 2pm-5pm*

*Dowd YMCA*

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. 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 on Sunday, June 9th from 2pm-5pm.

## VISION FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

*Citizens Community Groups gather on a regular basis to help each other follow Jesus. When we gather for discussions like this one, our primary aim is not to simply talk about some good ideas or share our opinions, but to wrestle with the real state of our hearts and how to become doers of the Scriptures and followers of Jesus.*

*To that end, there are three ground rules that make for a good discussion:*

- 1. Be Earnest.** We're here to encounter God, so we are not satisfied with trite conversation.
- 2. Be Honest.** The gospel is good news for sinners, so we put aside false smiles or fake attitudes to share the real state of our hearts.
- 3. Be Humble.** We are all works in progress seeking to be formed into Christlikeness, so we lower our defenses, open to correction from the Scriptures and one another.

## STUDY THE SCRIPTURES

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15.

- ***What stood out to you from this text?***
- ***Was there something that comforted you or convicted you?***
- ***What does this text teach us about God?***
- ***What does this text teach us about ourselves?***

## DISCUSS THE SERMON

In Sunday's teaching, we saw that 3 distinct groups of people within the church can create tension/difficulty for us.

1. Those who lead us (pastors, directors, CG Leaders)
2. Those who need us (idle, fainthearted, weak)
3. Those who mistreat us

- ***Which of these groups do you find particularly challenging for you to love within a church community and why?***

Read Ephesians 2:19.

According to the Scriptures, Christians have been adopted into a forever family. When we put our faith in Christ, we get God as Father, but we get a whole bunch of brothers and sisters too.

- ***What is compelling to you about the Bible's description of "church as family"?***
- ***What are some specific ways you long for it to be like this for you or for others?***

## PRACTICE

In the sermon, Garrison identified 3 groups of “need” within the church and how Paul calls us to respond to each one:

Who they are	What they need
“Idle” - Unruly, out of order (see 1 Thess 4:11-12)	Admonishment - Warning, rebuke
‘Fainthearted’ - ‘Small souled’. Those discouraged, grieved or depressed (See 1 Thess 4:14-17)	Encouragement- Kind and truthful words about who they are and who God is.
‘Weak’ -- Young believers. Those easily tempted to sin (See 1 Thess 4:2-8)	Help - Assisted with intentionality to help them grow in strength spiritually.

He also gave us some questions to help identify where folks might be so we can best serve them and lead them towards Jesus:

1. **Do you know why? Do you know how?** Is knowledge lacking? This helps us figure out if they’re in the weak category. Because if the answer is no, well, then I can help you. Here’s why this matters and here’s how you do it. This applies to the Bible. It might apply to prayer. Dealing with anger, or any type of sin.
  2. **What’s going on in your life?** We’re trying to figure out struggles, suffering and sin. If Wilson says, yeah I’m not reading because my grandfather just got diagnosed with cancer and I’m really struggling. That’s different than if he says I’m looking at porn every week and don’t care about my Bible. So here, you’re able to distinguish between fainthearted and idle.
  3. **What’s your schedule?** Here we’re looking at disciplines, rhythms and apathy. We’re trying to figure out if there is an idleness problem here.
- **We would suggest taking time now as a group (whether together or split up by gender) to do the following:**
    - Let an individual share their current struggles/sin.
    - The group then asks questions (above or others) to help the individual identify what category they would fall under and what they need.
    - Then, the group should respond accordingly (help, encouragement, admonishment).
    - Then, take time to pray for the individual.