



STRAIGHT TALK.

LEADER'S GUIDE

Bold Letters to the Corinthians

Week #11 Leader's Guide – June 26th, 2016

Straight Talk: Bold Letters to the Corinthians
SDBC Community Groups

“Real Holiness”

Key Passage:

1 Corinthians 5:6-13

⁶Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

⁹I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— ¹⁰not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹²For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.”

1. How do you pursue holiness (being set apart, a sacred person for the Glory of God)?
2. **Read the key passage, 1 Corinthians 5:6-13.**
3. In verses 6 to 8, the Apostle Paul establishes a picture for the church of Corinth to help them understand their movement from old life to new life with leavened bread versus unleavened bread. This is in reference to the Passover event, which took place in the Book of Exodus (Exodus 12 for reference). How can we move forward cleansing the “old leaven” from our life?
4. In verse 8, the Apostle Paul makes it clear that in order to move from “old leaven” (our old life bound by sin) to “unleavened bread” (our new life bound in Christ) it involves “our Passover lamb”. How do you centre your life on Jesus? How can you as a community group support each other in centring your life on Jesus?
5. **Holiness happens not by our actions, but by inviting God in to do the work of transformation.** We can't be holy, it's only by the power of God that we can be holy, but it does involve us centring our life on Christ, which involves time, energy, and inviting God in to every aspect of our life – ultimately we are talking about a thriving relationship. What stops us from having a thriving relationship with God? In our culture, do you find that you are so busy, that it's difficult to do this?
6. In a recent article by Bill Hybels in *Christianity Today* titled, “*The Secret of Strategic Neglect*” he speaks into this problem of busyness and makes a profound statement:

...sitting down before God with a calendar and a submitted spirit is one of the holiest things you can do. Putting a schedule together is not so much about determining what you're trying to get done; **it's deciding who you want to become.** That sounds like a nice little rhyme, but there's something profound in it.

Most of us sit down and we say, "Oh man, I've got 30 responsibilities, and I'm going to be in trouble if I don't get them all done." Then you list them and try to cram them all into your schedule. But this approach prevents us from doing the harder, deeper work of asking, "Who do I want to become over time? What kind of husband? What kind of father? What kind of friend, pastor, leader?" And then asking the follow-up question: "What needs to be put into my schedule so that I become this kind of person?"

What do you think about scheduling within this kind of framework? Do you think this might be a useful tool in pursuit of a thriving relationship with God?

7. In verses 9 to 13, the Apostle Paul outlines WHY it's important for us to be centred on Christ. We need to be a holy, set apart community that is united in our pursuit of holiness. God takes this seriously to the point where we must judge believers and potentially “purge” them from our faith community. How do you think we are to properly judge one another? **Read Matthew 7:1-5.** Proper judgment begins with us. This allows us to humbly and in love approach others who are struggling and need support/accountability/a community group. Is there someone you know that needs to be in a community group? Pray and consider how best to plug them in.
8. The Apostle Paul wants us and the church of Corinth to centre our lives on Christ so that we can properly move forward as a church community and so that we can be effective in our mission to be a light to a dark world that desperately needs God. What would it look like for your community group to be a light to a dark world? Is there something that you could do as a group to put this into effect?