

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of February 1, 2015

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. None of us like to have unfair expectations put upon us. As we heard this weekend, Christians can fall into the same trap and put unfair expectations on those who haven't made the same commitment to follow Jesus. What unfair expectations do you think Christians can get trapped into projecting upon others who aren't following Jesus?

2. What's your response to Larry's statement that an arrogant angry Christian is an oxymoron?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend, Larry said that without Jesus (God) we're "spiritually dead." The good news is that anyone can turn to God and his word to be made "spiritually alive" again. How would you describe to others the process of God's word working in us who are spiritually alive?

Hebrews 4:12

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. *[NIV]*

1 Peter 1:22-23

<sup>22</sup> Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. <sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. *[NIV]*

John 16:13

<sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. *[NIV]*

After reading the verses above, can you think of any personal examples of how God's spirit or word has been active in your life?

If so, explain.

2. Larry mentioned the world's most dominant influence is Satan, meaning we can easily be influenced by Satan unless we intentionally work to be influenced by God. How do the following verses describe our part in being intentionally influenced by God?

Philippians 4:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. *[NIV]*

### Proverbs 7:1-4

#### *Warning Against the Adulterous Woman*

- <sup>1</sup> My son, keep my words  
and store up my commands within you.
- <sup>2</sup> Keep my commands and you will live;  
guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.
- <sup>3</sup> Bind them on your fingers;  
write them on the tablet of your heart.
- <sup>4</sup> Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"  
and to insight, "You are my relative." *[NIV]*

### John 8:31

#### *Dispute Over Whose Children Jesus' Opponents Are*

- <sup>31</sup> To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. *[NIV]*

Can you think of any ways God's influence on you has helped you influence others? If so, explain?

3. One of the results of God's grace can be seen in Ephesians 2:10 where Paul says we are God's handiwork created to do "good works." At times it can be confusing as to what good works God has created us to do. How could the following passages help us better understand the good works for which God has created us?

### **Ephesians 2:10**

- <sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. *[NIV]*

### James 1:27

- <sup>27</sup> Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. *[NIV]*

### Romans 12:6-8

- <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. *[NIV]*

### 1 Peter 4:8-11

- <sup>8</sup> Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. *[NIV]*

### Hebrews 13:16

- <sup>16</sup> And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. *[NIV]*

What's your response to the statement in Ephesians 2:10: God has good works ready for you to do now?

How would you explain to someone why God wants us to be involved in good works?

**TAKING IT HOME**

Looking back over this week's sermon and homework, is there something you'd like to put into practice this week?

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Prayer Requests:

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