

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

FAMILY OF ORIGIN - PART I

The Power of Ownership

Pastor Miles McPherson – September 9, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. For all Rock Church events, please visit <http://www.sdrock.com/events/>.
2. If you are still rusty with Groups 2.0, or are not using it at all, please check out our video tutorials on Leader Central that will walk you through the process. Moving forward it is important that we are all using the system effectively. Please contact john.darrow@sdrock.com or Jason.mayer@sdrock.com if you have any further questions.
3. If you know somebody that is interested in stepping up to lead a Community Group please have them go to <http://www.sdrock.com/communitygroups/lead/> to fill out an application to get started today! Our next New Leader Orientation is September 30th from 2-4 in room 232, please contact john.darrow@sdrock.com for more information.

MEMORY VERSE

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.” (Philippians 1:27 NIV)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

(Use one or more of the following opening discussion starters)

1. Review the Sunday Sermon

Possession – **Control** of something.

Ownership – **Commitment** to someone.

I am **committed** we will always be together.

I am eager to **tell** the world we will be together.

I am **glad** that we will be together.

I am **willing** to make sacrifices to fulfill commitment of ownership.



1. I am someone who has been loved from the **beginning**.
2. I am **worthy** of being loved and belonged to.
3. I am **proud** to be who I am and can own myself.

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS – FAMILY OF ORIGIN, PART ONE

Sermon Review and Introduction

When we think about love and relationships and how the two work with one another very rarely (if ever) do we think of the terms possession and ownership as identifying words. Yet after Sunday's sermon is there anything false about the identification? We typically view relationships and people as commodities or as something valued that we commit our lives to. How do you view people? Better yet, how do you treat people? How do you view your family, and how do you represent them? These are questions we need to answer with time and conviction and most importantly in light of our view of Scripture and who Jesus is.

During the course of the next six weeks, we challenge you to examine your view of people as a whole. Our main focus is our family and specifically in Community Groups our church family, but lets not neglect people in general. Potential learning outcomes for you group:

- How do you honestly view your family, friends, and church community? Are they people of possession for you, or people you take ownership of?
- Is the gospel a concept we experience once for salvation, or is it something we continuously live out, and how are we doing at it?
- Create a plan as a Community Group to have unity in the Spirit as a representation of the gospel.

The following are the questions from the video study with supplemental questions and commentary to help guide your group discussion.

1. Discuss your experiences of "Ownership" vs. "Possession," and how has that impacted your relationships in the church and in general?

This is more of an opening question that should hopefully draw some transparency amongst the people in your group. If we are all honest we have people that we view as "high maintenance" or difficult and others that have so much importance in our lives that we could turn them into idols if we are not careful. Let's identify the error in both but also identify where we treat people well.

- Who are the people you "possess"?
- Who are the people you have taken "ownership" over?
- Who are the people that you may potentially turn into idols by either possessing them or owning them too much?

If necessary, start with yourself and allow yourself to be vulnerable enough so that others may feel comfortable.



2. Phil. 1:27 states that we are to, “strive together as one for the faith of the gospel.” How does the concept of “ownership” and this passage challenge you in how you approach your family and church community?

There is so much to say about this passage and the thought that Paul is setting up for the rest of the book of Philippians. Let’s examine a few important key points about this verse in light of our discussion about family:

- V. 27 states that we are to be “striving together...” In the Greek this word has a compound in front of the word that means, “joint participation.” Striving together is not an optional thing for the Christian to choose when they want to participate, but actually it is a way of life. The gospel of Jesus is so central to our identity that our continuous working with others for the furthering of Jesus’ name and glory is of the highest importance.
- If we work backwards in the verse, he states our conduct needs to be “worthy” of the gospel. Often time we treat people certain ways because we are living selfishly. We are not “striving together” and we are not contending for the faith of the gospel. That is so important for us to understand.
- The “you” in the passage is plural, not singular. This is not an individualistic plea, but a corporate call. People matter!

1. With these two points acknowledged, and our answer of #1 already in place, how do our views of “church” change?
2. What do you find as the greatest hindrance to adapting to this concept of “striving together” as opposed to living the faith individually?

3. Read Phil. 2:1-2, what will it look like to develop a plan for your group to commit to “unity in the Spirit?”

Here we see this “joint participation” used again as it relates to:

- Like-minded
- The same love
- Being in one spirit and one mind

1. Discuss as a group an individual plan, and a plan that the group can use together, to transfer our view of family (and people in general) from one of “possession” to one of “commitment.”
 - Identify the people specifically that need to be prayed for. These can be group members’ family, friends, colleagues, etc. These should be the ones that probably need the most attention.
 - Identify the people that are viewed as “possessions” in our lives. Commit to time in the next six weeks to connect with them and show them “ownership” of some sort. This may be very difficult to do at first so take it slow, but maintain the commitment with prayer, repentance, and remembering the gospel along the way.
 - Identify the people that we are already have “ownership” in our lives. How can we up the level of ownership? This may need continuous encouragement. There may be a level of “burnout” with these folks, but how can we stay the course?
 - Create accountable relationships for this task alone. If accountability already exists within the group keep that going with this.
 - Next week discuss the results of week one. What were the wins and losses? Where can improvement be made? Who needs prayer and for what?

REMEMBER WE ARE ALL LOVED AND VALUED PEOPLE IN THE EYES OF GOD, AND AS IMAGE BEARERS OF CHRIST, WE NEED TO LOVE AND VALUE THESE PEOPLE TOO!

