

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

FAMILY OF ORIGIN - PART IV

The Family Scapegoat

Pastor Miles McPherson – September 30, 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 October 28th from 2-4 in room 232, please contact john.darrow@sdrock.com for more information.

MEMORY VERSE

“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:3-4 ESV)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Review the Sunday Message
 1. **Believe** what God believes about you.
Proverbs 23:7 – “As a man thinks, so is he.”
 2. Seek out and/or develop **God-honoring** environments.
 3. Exchange bad habits with **good ones**.



COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS – FAMILY OF ORIGIN, PART THREE

Message Review and Introduction

The scapegoat is typically defined as the troublemaker of the family structure. They are the one that identifies with trouble and trial and strife. Whether it is crime and drugs or anger and bitterness they are constantly the outsider of the family. We learned this week that this person is usually the second child, right after the older child, which is usually the “hero.” Now of course, this isn’t always the case, necessarily, but we can easily identify these people in our own families.

How about our church family? How about those we worship or serve with on a regular basis? The “trouble maker” can manifest or present themselves in multiple forms. As followers of Christ we love and desire to pursue people where they are at but we must never leave them there. We must continue the pursuit of all people that they meet Jesus and have a long-term relationship with him to the point of complete transformation.

This week we will be taking a closer look at the scapegoat. Potential learning outcomes for your group:

- Identify “scapegoat” type symptoms in our relationships as well as our own families.
- Have a clear understanding of our identity in Christ. Do we continue to bear our past issues and “scapegoat” tendencies, or do we view ourselves as new creations in the redemptive process?
- Discuss ways of ministering to the “scapegoats” in our lives. How can we drive them to the new identity in Christ?

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

1. Discuss with each other what the “scapegoat” looks like in your own family. How has this person been typically treated and do you think it had an effect as to where they are at now?
2. It appears that when we put our identity in our family it distracts from putting our identity in Jesus. Read Colossians 3 together as a group, and discuss what identifies a follower of Christ. How does this contrast with the “scapegoat?”

Notes: In order to love and assist others we need to have our own firm foundation in the truth of who we are in Christ. Col. 3:1 tells us that since our life is in Christ that we need to live that way. However, before he gets to that point he makes some key observations about what Jesus did on the cross. This means we need to go back to Colossians 2:8-15:

- 2:8 – We are to make sure no one takes us captive by philosophy or empty deceit.
- 2:8 – We are to exchange the “human tradition” for the “Jesus tradition”

*** What are some “human traditions” that distract from who Jesus is and what he did for us? ***

- 2:9 – In Jesus the “fullness of deity dwells bodily.” Jesus is YHWH of the Old Testament, the visible and physical representation of God (cf. John 1:14; Phi. 2:6; Col. 1:19, 2:17).
- 2:11-15 – Jesus destroyed the bondage and power of sin on the cross. Paul explains it as the following:
 - True circumcision is the removal of the flesh. Old is dead, new is alive.



- True baptism shows death to the old life and birth to the new life.
- God made alive together, through Jesus, all which was dead in sin and its trespasses.
- He cancelled our recorded debt and nailed it to the cross.
- He exposed and destroyed the spiritual forces and opposition. They have no dominion in the believers' life.

*** How do these identifying marks of Jesus' death on the cross require us to rethink our past or troublemaker attitudes? ***

- Now go back and finish rereading Col. 3 as a group and identify the character traits of one that has new life Christ. Discuss these traits as a group.
- Hopefully we see that marked with a new life, our attitudes and actions of the past become new. We shouldn't view ourselves in the same light anymore.
- 3:4 – States that Christ *is our life*. You are no longer your own life, but Christ is now your own life.
 - Read 3:5-11 and notice the “put off’s” that are supposed to occur.
 - Read 3:12-15 and notice the “put on’s” that are supposed to occur.

*** Are we living as those that “put off” the old and “put on” the new? ***

- Read 3:16-17 and note how we can practically apply the new life. How is it done?

3. How can we practically drive the “scapegoats” in our lives into this identity of Christ lifestyle? Develop a plan and goal of how to minister to these people.

1. Now that we have a firm understanding of this personally, discuss as a group how we drive other scapegoats to new identity living.
2. Identify the people in your life who fit the scapegoat child role.
 - Develop a strategy of how you will interact with these people moving forward.
 - If you are the scapegoat child, how will you look to improve your relationships with others?
 - How will you learn to better accept your new identity?

Add'l Notes:



GROUP HANDOUT

1. Discuss with each other what the “scapegoat” looks like in your own family. How has this person been typically treated and do you think it had an effect as to where they are at now?

2. It appears that when we put our identity in our family it distracts from putting our identity in Jesus. Read Colossians 3 together as a group, and discuss what identifies a follower of Christ. How does this contrast with the “scapegoat?”

3. How can we practically drive the “scapegoats” in our lives into this identity of Christ lifestyle? Develop a plan and goal of how to minister to these people.

