

Word Notes Sunday 26/07/15 Holy Worldliness

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Texts: 1 Peter 2:9-12

When people are saved what should they change in their lives? How should members of the Body of Christ live their lives? “I know what the Bible says about “XYZ” but what should I do in regard to being unevenly yoked, sex before marriage, submitting to my husband?” What books should I not read, films not see? Should I car-share with a member of the opposite sex?”

Called to what Peter Stott terms “holy worldliness” (*The Living Church: Convictions of a Lifelong Pastor* [Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2007], 53) we should maintain within ourselves obedience to Christ, never sacrificing our identity in him, while mixing with people of the world, submitting to worldly laws, the requirements of our employers and each other – in marriage for example.

In his letter Peter gives some clear guidance on practical holy living to born again Jews living in foreign parts (see 1 Pet 2:11 – 3:7). His purpose – that they live out the amazing hope that is theirs in Christ, giving glory to him and that they represent him before men. (1 Pet 1:3-2:10)

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

- 1) Jesus said: “If you love me you will obey my command” (Jn 14:15) and “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s” (Matt 22:21).
 - a) Where do you see conflict between obeying God and submitting to worldly authority?
 - b) How do you resolve that conflict?
 - c) Is it ever right to disobey civil law or the direction of an employer? What might be the result?
- 2) Husbands and wives in 2015. **As you discuss this remember each couple must build their own union before the Lord – try not to force your relationship values onto others!**
 - a) Asking wives to “submit” or “be submissive” to their husbands (3:1) is an uncomfortable concept in our culture. Check as many different translations as you have to hand to see how they interpret and discuss what Peter might be trying to say – and why. (Read the context of the verse.)
 - b) Do the same for verse 7. What do you understand the key words (respect/honour/understand and weaker). How can husbands “respect and honour” their wives as “the weaker vessel” without patronising them who are “given the same blessing” and are indeed “heirs with you”? (3:7).

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks, plans and prays about how to share the Good News)

Encourage one another to live out of your position in Christ not your situation in the world. Be a support and encouragement to those around you and look for the opportunities to give an account for your “other Kingdom” nature.