

SERIOUS QUESTIONS FOR SERIOUS CHRISTIANS



RCF Small Group

6:30-8:00pm

Leader: Randy Glau

October - December, 2022

Class #1 Intro



What is this small group study about?

1.) Gospel Truth: *The Power of God* (Romans 1:16)

“If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself.” Augustine

2.) Nothing else in all of Scripture is ever described as ‘The Power of God’ except for the Person of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:24)

3.) The full armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-12)

4.) The hopelessness and depravity of man without God.

- *Psalms 51:5*
- *RC Sproul has said: “We are not sinners because we sin... we sin because we are sinners.”*

What is this small group study about?

5.) Sanctification

- What is it?
- How do we see, feel, and experience God in daily life?
- Am I changing?

6.) Struggle

- Our capacity to understand.
- Sovereignty vs 'free will'.

What is this small group study about?

7.) Five SOLAS (Latin phrases) that shaped the lives and convictions of the reformers in the early church, and should shape our lives:

- Scripture alone
- Grace alone
- Faith alone
- Christ alone
- Glory to God alone



Why is 'alone' important?

What is this small group study about?

8.) This class:

- Assumes we're all true Christians.
- Supports the fact that there is only one Truth.
 - "...it is impossible for God to lie..." "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure..." Hebrews 6:18-19 ;
 - "...knowledge of the Truth that leads to godliness...knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life"... Titus 1:1-2
 - "...If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32
- Is about the 'doctrinal fundamentals' that few people think about very often.
- Forces the Christian to give thought to some tough questions about our Holy, Sovereign God and the basis of the relationship that *should* exist with Him if you are saved.
- Reviews differences between Arminian and Calvinistic thought regarding God & salvation.

What is this small group study about?

9.) Two schools of thought

- Arminianism = Synergistic; collaborative; my free will ultimately determines my salvation
- Calvinism = Monergistic; God's will ultimately determines my salvation
- River Christian Fellowship is _____ .

10.) We will discuss, define and answer the following:

- A. God's role in your personal salvation and sanctification process.
- B. Man's natural state.
- C. Election. If election takes place, is it 'Conditional' or 'Unconditional'?
- D. Atonement. What is the difference between 'General' vs. 'Limited' atonement?
- E. Saving grace.
- F. Perseverance of God with the saints: Are we able to fall from Grace or are we kept in the faith?

What is this small group study about?

11.) For the next seven (7) weeks:

- Prepare yourself for a different kind of class!
- Pray for the grace that He promises to provide.
 - Why do we need 'grace'?
- His Grace and His direct interaction with you personally will enable you to fully open your heart to Him, to His Words and to your brothers and sisters in this class.

What is this small group study about?

12.) This is a family discussion. (John 17: 20-23)

- “When a community of people form a strong relationship, it’s said that they’re like family. Yet followers of Christ are more than that. We truly are a family, because in the providence and grace of God, we’ve been welcomed into His family.” Providence EFC Sunday Bulletins
- Let’s grow together as we read His Word and discuss topics that are hard to understand.
- All for His Glory!

The Focus of This Small Group Study

- Faith and trust in Jesus Christ...
- His death on the cross and His resurrection had very real and practical effects on you...
- Continually praying for the grace necessary to keep your mind and heart seeking the Truth always...
- Understanding God's role and God's Grace in our salvation....Is our salvation dependent on us...or God?

“Doctrine” doesn't save anyone. We're not saved or lost by John Calvin or James Arminius. They are not sovereign.

God alone is Sovereign.

Let's seek a closer relationship with Him together.

Questions?

Next week

We'll discuss and answer the most basic question there is:

➤ Is God in control?