

Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

"Bond Together/Grow Together"

For the week of 5-2-2021

For You as the Teacher/Host

Remember to begin each Small Group session with a word of prayer. Please keep in mind that the purpose of this curriculum guide is to cultivate a deeper relationship with the Lord and each other through conversation that intentionally engages the weekly message.

Quick Review

Look back over your sermon notes from this week's teaching. Discuss the message briefly. Was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

***Opener Question or Activity:** If you were an ambassador of the United States to a hostile, immoral country, what should your behavior be in the face of bribes and threats? Would it be easy to reject or could you fail?

Sunday's Main Scripture Text: Colossians 3:17, 22-24 "Work as Worship"

Digging Deeper: Read the scripture referenced just above. NOTE: Slavery(vs. 22) is not condoned in Scripture. In fact, Paul suggests a slave should become free the moment they could (1Cor. 7:21); but he is dealing with work situations as they really were. So taking this as a setting for one of the toughest work situations and evaluating all our work situations, what is our instruction?

1. In verse 22, what is the point Paul is making about "Who" is watching us as we work? How does that sit with you? How should that impact us?
2. Verse 23 uses the word for breath of life (soul) and translates it as "heartily" or "from the heart." What does that mean to you?
3. How should knowing we will receive an inheritance (vs 24) from God for our work "done with all your heart" motivate you/us in our work?
4. Our worship (ascribing worth) of God relates to our work for Him. Is this a new concept for you? How aware of this are you on a daily basis? How can this transform your work even more?
5. What resources (Scriptures, books, podcasts, groups, etc.) have been especially helpful to you for growing in worship as you work? (By the way, please consider the "Work as Worship" seminar at Gateway 5/14 from 8-3.)

Apply it today

Looking back over this week's teaching, what is most important for you to remember and why? How will you grow in the area you have identified?