

# Community Group Discussion Guide



Sunday, November 22, 2020

## THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Sanctifying joy is produced by humbly living in unity by reflecting Christ's humble and obedient work in the gospel; working out our salvation with reverence and awe; living as shining witnesses to a dark world without grumbling but rather proclaiming the gospel in word and deed; and rejoicing together through our sacrificial service for God's glory.

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION *(Use along with Reading: Ante Faciem Dei)*

- What is Paul's expectation for the Philippian church, and why (1:27-2:12)?
- What does it mean to "work out your salvation" (verses 12-13)? What is *sanctification*, and how is it connected with salvation (Colossians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 6; Romans 8:29)?
- Who does the work of sanctification (verses 12-13; 1 Corinthians 9; 1 Timothy 4)?
- How does the gospel help us balance our personal pursuit of holiness and God's sanctifying work?
- What is the "fear and trembling" that characterizes God's people? How does it cultivate a desire to serve God (2 Corinthians 5; Proverbs; Psalm 130:3-4)?
- In what ways does God empower and prepare us to work for his good pleasure (verse 13)? Do you recognize God's enabling grace in your life? Is glorifying God important to you (2 Corinthians 13)?
- What sins are at the heart of *grumbling* and *disputing*? How does it affect unity and our witness in the world (Deuteronomy 32:5)? What is the antidote to grumbling and complaining?
- How do we remain distinct from the world while living on mission in our secular culture? Is your life producing a thirst in others for the gospel?
- Explain Paul's imagery of the drink offering and the Philippian's sacrifice of faith. What about the Philippians stoked Paul's joy? What is sanctifying joy?

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

*Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* by Donald S. Whitney

*Celebration of Discipline* by Richard J. Foster

*The Discipline of Grace* by Jerry Bridges



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