

Home Group Questions

the week of 10/7/2018

Genesis 11:1-9

TOWER OF BABEL – PUTTING GOD IN THE SPOTLIGHT

GETTING STARTED

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel taught about the Tower of Babel and how the desires of those at Babel to build a tower that could reach to the heavens, thereby making a “name for themselves”. Their desire to glorify themselves, not to glorify God.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Genesis 11:1-9. The heart of the problem at Babel is the desire to “make a name for themselves” rather than seeking to glorify God and do His will.

-Verses 5-6 have led to some confusion regarding the Tower of Babel. It wasn't that God was surprised by the Tower or concerned that somehow men would “overthrow” God. I like how one commentator put it:

“Don't misunderstand what God is saying here. God is not concerned that the people are going to overthrow Heaven. He is not concerned even that they are getting too smart or have too much power (His will, wisdom and power will always be superior). God's concern is that this project will lead to an arrogance and callousness that will give them new boldness in their sin.”

This passage speaks to the pride of people and their desire to glorify themselves. How can we keep the concept of glorifying God first and foremost in our lives. How do we balance that desire with, in a sense, making a “name for ourselves” in the workplace by working hard and seeking to get a promotion....or doing well in college or grad school so as to be noticed and rewarded by the professor? The concept of including God in our plans is important (Babel didn't)...how can we practically put God first in our planning and in our desires to do well.

2. Read Galatians 5:16-26. The passage highlights the “fruit” (not “fruits”) of the Spirit, but the context of the larger passage speaks of the battle we are in and our need to be led by the Holy Spirit.

- **Pride often plays** into whether or not we will obey the Lord and communicate His way or give into our flesh and communicate in a destructive way. The battle is no more intense than in the way we communicate. Our flesh wants to lash out at people who wrong us or irritate us, but the Spirit has a different plan. Look at the list in verses 19, 20, and 21. Which of those sinful behaviors can most be identified with our communication and the impact of our speech?
- Some of the sins in this list are seen as more serious in our eyes...however; the list helps us to see that God also hates sins that are more “accepted” like envy and strife.

Discuss this passage especially discussing the fruit of the Spirit in verses 22-23 and how it would change the way you communicate in the tense, everyday moments of stress that you face in your marriage or other relationships. How might pride keep you from communicating in a godly way?

3. The pride of Babel spills over into modern day relationships. Brainstorm with each other regarding what a response “in the flesh” would look like when you disagree with someone about something, and what a response “in the Spirit” would look like when you disagree.

4. Read 1 Peter 5:5-10. What are some truths about humility that we can learn from this passage? It seems like prideful people get away with so much in this world today. How does God oppose the proud when things seem to go so well for them at times? What are some good indications that you are truly humbling yourself before God as it states in verse 6? How do you know when you are living “humbly” without falling back into the sin of pride? Why does Peter connect his teaching on humility with being watchful concerning the devil?