

Leaders' Notes

The Ten Great Freedoms
Sermon #4

First Brethren Church of Sarasota, Florida
January 24, 2010

Dear Growth Group Leader:

I hope you are doing well in your group. Remember if you have any questions, I am just a phone call away at 586-9042. I really want to help in any way I can to make your meetings successful for building relationships and deepening all of our members' walks with God.

We have talked about having a get-together where all groups can come together at the same time. Let me know what you think of this idea. You can use your attendance sheet if you want to.

I think one of the best attributes of a group leader is a good listener. You may think that you need to justify your status as leader by talking and teaching a lot. However, most or all of your group members have already been introduced to the subject by the sermon. Your job is to get them thinking about how to apply the subject to their lives. They will do a better job with ideas they come up with. So, let them have the question and chew on it for a while. I know I have to hold back from preaching another sermon when I lead a group.

Blessings,

Pastor David

Freedom of intimacy with God

Exodus 20:7

The power in a name

Names express the character of the named.

Knowing someone's name suggests intimacy.

Taking someone's name suggests identification.

To use the name of God in vain is...

To speak of God without reverence or meaning.

To break an oath made in God's name.

To falsely claim allegiance to God.

To falsely claim to speak for God.

To teach or believe falsehoods about God.

Why is God concerned about this?

Using God's name is an expression of intimacy with him.

God want us to use his name meaningfully.

God wants us to speak and act in his name.

Colossians 3:17

Home Bible Study

Freedom of intimacy with God

Hopefully you can spend some time exploring this question. If your group members think they are already doing enough to do everything in God's name, then they probably aren't thinking deeply enough. Surely we all have a long way to go to do everything in his name.

Getting started

1. Did any part of the sermon make you think?
2. How did you get your name? Do you know what it means? If so, what?

Leader, why don't you do some research on the names of the people in your group? www.behindthename.com is a good resource for the etymology of names.

3. Are you good at remembering names? How do you feel when someone remembers yours?

This question is to begin the discussion of how important names are for us. Dale Carnegie says that the most important sound to all of us is the sound of our names. God's name and title are an expression of our relationship with him.

The name of God

4. The following are names of God in the Bible. How do you react to them? Are there any that speak to you especially at this time in your life?
 - a. My rock.
 - b. El Shaddai (God Almighty)
 - c. Yahweh (I am who I am, I will be who I will be)
 - d. Yahweh Rophe (I Am, the Healer)
 - e. Yahweh Rohi (I Am, the Shepherd)
 - f. Yahweh Jireh (I Am, the Provider)

If someone has been through a difficult illness, Yahweh Rophe might be the name that speaks to her most immediately. For someone who has been through a time of insecurity, My Rock might be the most important title for God at this time.

Putting it into practice

5. Read Colossians 3:17. In what ways do you fulfill this command to do everything in the name of Jesus?

This question is not for the faint of heart or the nominal Christian. One of the most dangerous states for believers is to be a lukewarm follower of God. Someone who is lukewarm has enough God to feel covered for the afterlife but not enough to empower and abundant life or to actually assure a relationship with God that actually assures eternal life.

6. In what ways can you improve doing everything in Jesus' name?