Small Group Questions – Deer Park – Authentic Because of the New Covenant

The COMMUNITY QUESTION:
If you were given the job of building a house from the start to finish---what would be your first priority and why?

INTO THE WORD/APPLICATION:


1. What is the definition that best describes the meaning of the word “authentic” as it relates to this scripture verse?
   
   Webster’s Dictionary says: Worthy of acceptance or belief as conforming to or based on fact, or conforming to an original so as to reproduce essential features.

   We are to have the mind of Christ operating in us if we are truly “authentic Christians representing Christ our Lord and Savior (Phil 2:5) mentioned in recent past lessons.

   2 Timothy 2:15 commands believers to “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2. What are some ways that we show that we have “tender consideration and concern for others”?

   Examples in Matt 10:42 says “And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

   And in Matt 25:34-40 which says “34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”

3. How are authentic Christians to live differently than those who are not followers of Christ? Can our lives be lived in such a way as to demonstrate that we are authentic Christians without speaking? Some examples are:

   In 1 Peter 3:1-2 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct.
Jesus is asked a question by the Pharisees in Matthew 25:36-40 “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

And in 1 Peter 3:8-9 believers are commanded - Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. - Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

4. Why is it important for Christians to gather together on a weekly basis and are there any negative consequences for neglecting this command from the writer of Hebrews? Are you committed to meeting with fellow believers at Coastal Community Church with the same dedication as you have at your job?

Christians should be just as dedicated or even more so to attending and supporting the local church as they are to their job. Everything on this earth is ONLY temporary but the issues that the local church deals with are eternal in nature and with the consequences for eternity! 2 Corinthians 4:15-18 addresses the eternal nature and its perspective – “For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

5. How do authentic Christians number their days in order to comply with the phase “as you see the Day drawing near? 

In the present day the local church (local body of believers) needs to come together more now because the Day is getting closer to the Rapture of the Church and the return of Christ as King and Judge. This verse tells us that we are to draw near to in three ways:

- Draw near in faith (towards God).
- Draw near in hope (for ourselves).
- Draw near in love (for others)

Don’t ever assume that you have any more time on this earth than today. Don’t say that you know how much time you have on this earth. In Luke 12:19-21 it tells the story of a man who assumed too much! “And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.”” But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?’ So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

As Paul says in Acts 18:20-21 – “When they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, but taking leave of them and saying, “I will return to you again if God wills,” he set sail from Ephesus.”