

People Divided; People Reunited August 15-18

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? *Circle Two Opportunity...*

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

Housekeeping:

No Learning Community next week – we will discuss August 18 message August 29- Sept. 1

Intro:

God’s emphasis to dig deeper and deeper into Genesis 1-11 indicates importance and marching orders

Is it possible that we are playing church instead of being the church? AND ignorant of doing so?

Is it possible that we think we are in the game but actually scrimmaging? AND ignorant of doing so?

Is it possible we are ignorant of some core elements of Christianity, of following Christ?

On one side, we can be ignorant of the true enemy, his actual schemes, the real battles

On the other, we can be ignorant of the Presence, power, authority and true instructions of Christ

In being ignorant, we are being disobedient ... perhaps vaguely aware something is not quite right?

What is God up to in studying Genesis 1-11?

One purpose is to lead us to live SLO moment by moment so that we hear God reveal the schemes of the enemy so we follow His lead and live in His power instead of cooperate with the devil!!

Understanding the unseen struggles in relationships

- ➔ 3 rebellions of combined human and supernatural beings
 1. Genesis 3, Eden – estrangement from God and others
 2. Genesis 6, Mt Hermon – proliferation of depravity
 3. Genesis 11, Babel – dividing of people groups

1. The essence of life by God’s design.

- ➔ a love relationship with people that partners with His created beings
Matthew 22:36–40 (ESV) ³⁶“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”
- ➔ mostly ordinary, daily activities in partnership with God and others
Colossians 3:17 (ESV) And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- ➔ a cosmic war for God’s purposes and our good
Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV) (pew Bible page 979)

2. The unseen reasons relationships are hard.

1. Eden (Genesis 3) brought sin nature that caused selfishness, blame which broke relationships
2. Mt. Hermon (Genesis 6) brought perverse evil which led to hurting others in horrible ways
Those two make it hard to love God and would be bad enough, but ...
3. Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) escalates the brokenness in relationships that makes it hard to love others

Genesis 11:1–9 (ESV) (pew Bible page 7)

- ➔ God's command:
Genesis 9:1 (ESV) ¹And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.
- ➔ mankind's flagrant disobedient response, vs. 1-4
- ➔ God reviews with His Divine Council, vs. 5-7
- ➔ God disperses, vs. 7-9
 - ✓ God gives different languages and culture to groups
 this creates deep differences, division, and separation to cause them to disperse
 - ✓ God assigns groups (nations) to supernatural council members
Deuteronomy 32:8–9 (ESV) ⁸When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. ⁹But the Lord's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.
 - ✓ supernatural beings disobey
Psalm 82 (ESV) (pew Bible page 492)
 - instead of obediently pointing people to God, they create hostility to God, lead people to worship them instead of God
 - from that point mankind is divided by language, culture, values, idols/false gods that promote hate and hostility instead of love

3. Implications for our relationships.

- ➔ Our primary struggle is not with people, but unseen forces
Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV) (pew Bible page 979)
- ➔ Relationships are cosmic battlegrounds – love is our weapon
Matthew 5:43–48 (ESV) (pew Bible page 810)
- ➔ Holy Spirit within us is only way to love and have good relations

Takeaways...