

Small Group Discussion Guide
Week of 2/7/16

Read Hebrews 13:1-25 together.

1. Pastor Marc said, "The writers of the New Testament knew that when theology does not include a transformed life, it amounts to nothing more than empty religious practice." What did he mean by this? (See Romans 12:2, James 1:22-25)
2. This doesn't mean that theology is not important, because it is! The word theology simply means, "the study of God". Why is it impossible to truly love God without a biblically sound theology?
3. Pastor Marc said that the New Testament writers don't leave us with practical instructions in order to say, "Live like this **to earn** God's favor or acceptance" but rather, "Live like this **because** you have been granted God's favor and acceptance." What is the difference between those two perspectives? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22. How do you apply the "living because" perspective to these very specific instructions?
4. Martin Luther said, "Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance. It is laying hold of His willingness." What did he mean by this? Do you generally approach God as reluctant or willing when you pray? Why is it important to pray for those who lead us politically, at work, at church and in our families? How can we encourage and engage in more prayer for our leaders?
5. Read Hebrews 13:10-14 again. What does it mean to "bear the reproach of Christ"? How do we do this practically in 21st century America?

Pray together...

For the Pastors, Elders, Staff and Leaders of City View; that they would have wisdom and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit...

For each other to have a heart to seek God in his word, developing a biblically informed theology, so that we can know Him more fully and accurately...

For the individual needs in the group...