grace
evangelical free church

Grace Group Discussion Questions

Title: "sinning sins" or "SINNING SINS"?
Theme: Praising the Lord for the life he gives us as we seek Him.
Text: 1 John 5:13-21, Part One
Speaker: Dave Talley
Date: August 2, 2009

Grace Group Questions for this Sunday's Sermon:

1) Read 1 John 5:13-21 together. What has the Lord been doing in your heart in light of the sermon's focus? Share with the group.

2) There are three important "tests" in this book. The tests are not multiple choice nor is either optional. Each test is clear and necessary. Discuss the following and take some time to pray for one another.
   a. Theological: can you clearly articulate who Christ is? If you can, do you believe in what you know? If you cannot, is that a problem? In other words, can one be a follower of Christ and not know who he is?
   b. Moral: are you striving to obey the teachings of the Bible? Even if you are struggling, are you earnestly seeking the Lord with others in the midst of the struggle? Discuss what it means to be in struggle with sin, but still be a believer. What passages come to mind (you can even defend this from 1 John)?
   c. Social: define "love" by looking at specific verses in 1 John. Are you actively and intentionally loving those in the body of Christ? Not just the ones you want to, but each one you come into contact with? Is there anyone with whom you need to make things right? Ask forgiveness? Repair the relationship?

3) "Sinning sins unto death" is a frightening reality. How was this explained in Sunday's sermon? If you know someone on this "path," your heart must be heavy. Pray for the return of family and friends who come to mind. (Although John does not exhort his flock to pray for those "who went out," our hearts will often lead us to do so out of love)

4) "Sinning sins not unto death" is a common reality. We all share in this. Review what 1 John has been teaching us about sin.
   a. After looking at the whole letter, focus on 2:1. What does it mean to you that Jesus is your "advocate?" Spend some time praising him for this.
   b. John's exhortation is to pray for one another in the body because God will give "life." How was this explained in the sermon? John's desire is to preserve the flock. He is heartbroken over those "who went out." ***Let's commit to fight for one another's holiness and to pray on behalf of one another.*** If you have not done so, maybe you should appoint someone in the group to regularly distribute prayer requests OR have each group member create a prayer list so that you can specifically pray for one another outside of the group.