

“Killing Gluttony”
Sermon Notes

➤ Like everything else from God in this life that is not Jesus, food is a great gift...it's just a lousy god

Gluttony (*def.*) - ***“Put concisely, gluttony is food worship.”***

-Jonathan Bowers

1. Gluttony is:

- _____ (Proverbs 23:1-3; Matthew 5:27-30)
- _____ (Proverbs 23:20-21)
- _____ (Proverbs 25:16, 27)
- _____ (Proverbs 28:7)
- _____ (Proverbs 30:8b-9a; Rom. 16:17-18; Phil. 3:19)

2. The Bible says:

God is your _____ (Psalm 22:26; 34:8; 63:1-8)

God's _____ furnishes a lavish banquet (Deuteronomy 8:3; Job 23:12; Psalm 19:10; 119:103; Proverbs 9:5; Isaiah 55:10-11; Ezekiel 2:8; 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:14; 1 Peter 2:2-3)

Jesus is the _____ (John 4:10, 13-14; 4:31-34; 6:27, 33-35, 51, 6:53-56; 7:37; 1 Corinthians 10:3-4; Hebrews 13:9-10)

The Holy Spirit is your _____ (Acts 2:15; Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:22-23)

Fellowship with God’s people is gathering to _____ (Psalm 36:7-9; 55:14; Isaiah 55:1-2; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8; 11:17-34; Revelation 2:7; 3:20; 19:6-9)

Next Week: Various Proverbs - “Killing Lust” - 6th Sunday of Lent

Community Group Study Guide For the Week of April 2nd – 9th

As many of you know, 2017 will likely prove to be the key year in our 2020 Vision. By God's grace, the engine that will drive it is faithful personal evangelism. For most of us, striking up conversations with unbelieving family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and classmates is the reverse of easy. This particular community group study is designed to help. Though we've featured it before, the topic is perennial so it bears repeating. Please take some time and work through these questions in your own personal devotional time, time with your spouse or family worship with your kids, or in your community group.

Getting Started

1. Most of our conversations with unbelievers revolve around the outside layer of life (weather, gas prices, activities, common interests, etc.). Yet the good news of Jesus Christ is clearly related to the inside layer of life (values, attitudes, worldview, beliefs). What makes it so difficult to penetrate to the inside layer in our daily course of conversation with unbelievers?

Digging Deeper

2. Share with the group an example of a time when, by God's grace, your conversation with an unbeliever moved successfully from the outside to the inside layer of life? How did it happen? What does that teach you?

Open Your Bible to Mark 10:17-22...

3. Read the account of Jesus' conversation with the rich young man. Notice the door for the gospel that God opened a country mile wide for Jesus with the man's question in verse 17. If someone asked you that question, would you be tempted to "close the sale" as it were? You know – to give a direct answer about how we are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone? Why does Jesus begin by answering this man's question with a question?

4. Turn now to Matthew 12:9-11 and 22:17-20. Observe once again Jesus' pattern of answering a question with a question. What is he doing? If you read straight through all four Gospels noting how Jesus dealt with questions you'd discover that answering a question with a question was the norm in his dealings with unbelievers rather than the exception. Why? What's so brilliant about Jesus' strategy of question-laden evangelism?

5. Why are questions such a powerful way to get to the inside layer of life with people? When we ask questions of our unbelieving neighbors, what are we communicating to them?

6. Below you'll find a list of questions that can help us to make the transition between the outside and inside layer of life in our conversations with those who don't have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Read through them, discussing each one as a group and pondering what their effects might be if implemented more frequently in your typical "outside layer" interactions with unbelievers. The questions move from fairly open-ended and non-directive in nature toward increasingly pointed and instructive ones. One tip is to combine questions. If you get the opportunity to ask one of the heavier-weight questions, consider following it up with one of the lighter-weight ones for clarity.

"Really?"

“Why?”
 “How do you know?”
 “For instance?”
 “What do you mean?”
 “Are you sure?” “How sure?”
 “How do you feel about that?”
 “Would you explain that to me?”
 “Where have you heard that?”
 “What makes you believe that?”
 “What difference has this made in your relationships?”
 “What does a typical weekend look like for you and your family?”
 “Do you have any kind of spiritual beliefs?”
 “If you’re wrong, what would be the consequences for you? For others you love?”
 “If you were wrong, would you want to know about it?”
 “Isn’t it possible that...?”
 “Would you be open to an observation?”
 “Do you want to know what the Bible says about that?”
 “Who is Jesus to you?”
 “Would you like to come to our community group this week?”
 “What are you up to this Sunday? Want to come to church?”
 “If you were to die tonight are you confident that you would go to heaven?”
 “What is the basis of your confidence?”
 “Is there anything keeping you from putting your trust in Jesus Christ right now?”

7. People often have questions about the existence of God, the reliability of the Bible, the exclusivity of Jesus, and the problem of evil. How does applying the questions above help in our evangelistic and apologetic (i.e. defending the faith) efforts?

Imagine answering the following statements from people on your list of five with some of the questions above: “I don’t believe in God.” “All religions basically teach the same thing.” “It’s arrogant for Christians to say that Jesus is the only way.” “God just wants us to do our best.” “God helps those who help themselves.” “I don’t believe in hell.” “The Bible is filled with contradictions and errors.” “Since there’s so much suffering and evil in the world, a good and all powerful God can’t possibly exist.” Contrary to popular opinion, these statements don’t have to grind the conversation to a screeching halt. As a matter of fact, following one of those statements with one of the simple questions on the previous page might keep the conversation going and even blow it wide open in a helpful direction. Try role-playing a bit, either in your head or with those alongside whom you’re studying, and see how the conversation goes.

8. Can you share the gospel in under a minute? Try it (make sure you include the basics of “God”, “Man”, “Christ”, “Response”). Can you recount your personal testimony in under a minute or so? Again, try it out with the group.

9. Close your time as group by praying for folks on your list of five.

Ask God to help you to take an interest in lost people, to be politely curious about them and their story (Psalm 8:5-8; 139:13-14)
 Ask God to help you well up with compassion for unbelievers

(Matthew 9:36)

Ask that God would convict them of sin and draw them to Jesus

(John 16:8; 6:37, 44, 65)

Ask that he might open a door for you to share the gospel

(Colossians 4:2-3)

Pray that you will speak clearly, graciously, winsomely, and boldly

(Colossians 4:4-6; Ephesians 6:18-20)

Ask God to help you to be prepared to give a reason for the hope you
have in Christ, and that you would do so with gentleness and respect

(1 Peter 3:15)