

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Thinking back upon your upbringing (regardless of whether you were raised in church), were you a “black-and-white” kind of thinker, or were you more prone to think in terms of grey areas? What specific influences may have played a role in the way you developed those traits? Discuss...

Ponderings:

2. Clearly, there are cardinal teachings and beliefs which are central to the Christian faith...both doctrinally and ethically. Our doctrine concerns itself with truth, whereas our ethics are centered around love. With that in mind, discuss the following thoughts and questions...
 - What does the Apostle Paul teach us later in 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 about the relationship between truth and love?
 - Can you think of any guiding principles that can help us decipher whether an issue is a “black-and-white” issue versus a “grey area” issue?
 - In relation to the example Paul used concerning meat sacrificed to idols, what are some modern-day equivalents he may have used if his letter had been written here in the 21st Century?
3. In the weekend message it was mentioned that often when someone grows up under legalism (religion), they later rebel toward license. Likewise, people raised in license (rebellion) sometimes retreat into legalism for a time. Can you think of examples of this in your own life, or in the life of someone close to you? Discuss...
4. In the weekend message it was mentioned that neither legalism nor license allow a person to experience true liberty. How is liberty in Christ distinct from either one of the ditches of legalism or license? How does a grace-saturated mind-set lead to the true experience of liberty as opposed to a law-saturated mind-set? Discuss...

Promptings:

5. Paul wraps up the passage we studied with the words, *“I don't just do what's best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved.”* When you think about the trajectory of the things you commonly invest your life in, would you say that this statement is true of you? In what specific ways are you allowing love to guide your liberty in Christ? Is there even such a thing as true liberty if not guided by love? Explain...
6. Whenever you decide to return to public worship at Valley, in what specific ways might you be stretched to apply these truths afresh to your life?