

3-27-22 Facilitator More Than We Ask or Imagine Eph 3:14-21 Tim Rice

1. **Launchers: Pick one – Have fun!**

- What has God done that *is far more abundantly than you have asked or thought?*
- How is your relationship with God *far more abundantly than you have ever asked for or thought?*

2. **Worship God as you read and praise Him reflecting on Ephesians 3:20-21**

- What is your favorite verse?
- What do you love about God from the passage?
- How are you encouraged to hope?

3. **Sermon Reflection: Ephesians 3:14-21 More Than We Ask or Imagine**

What drives your sense of hope?

GOD'S GLORY & US – He deserves all the credit and is the source of all things

- What is our relationship to God and His glory?
 - *Answer: We were designed to bring Him credit AND to be completely sourced for all the good we can possibly do*
- When have you received credit for someone else's accomplishments because you helped source them in their efforts (*parent, teacher, coach*)?
- What do you treasure most, *so that that every thing, every person or every experience really anchors meaning for your entire life? God is most valuable and loving*

DEFIANT & DISHONEST – To deny God's Glory. Is to live a lie

- How do we live in pride and unbelief vs. God's ownership and design?
- How do steal the glory from God by minimizing your need, your sin and your redemption?
 - If I am not that bad, then Jesus is not that great of a savior.
 - If I can do anything on my own, then I rob Him of the thanksgiving due His generosity.
- *How have you lived as if you deserve all the credit? Or as if God has failed you?*
- *How have you assumed God's place by seeking to do all that you imagine?*

LOVE THAT DEFIES CATEGORIES – the ultimate innovator and donor

- What conquers our doubts and fears?
- We praise innovators (*Edison, Ford, Jobs*) and generosity (*Gates, Buffett*). Whether it is riches, wisdom, power, or love... God's work in Jesus to save us is the MOST innovative and beyond our concepts of generous
- In a transactional relationship, there's no way God could love us. But if He is truly gracious, *then He is glorified by loving and saving His enemies*
- *He sources us beyond our wildest dreams.* Because of His infinite nature, He is *able* to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or imagine

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...**

1. Worship the LORD for the splendor of His glory. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for sourcing you in everything in your life and for His surpassing worth vs. every other created person, thing or experience.

2. How have you lived doubting God's sourcing of you and refusing to credit Him for all of the goodness in your life? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to heal your heart.

3. Give thanks to Jesus for all that He has done that is unimaginable, and immeasurably generous. Thank Him for *doing more than we could have asked or imagined, to leave heaven and be cursed so that we could be redeemed.*

4. Who do you know that claims to live an authentic life while denying God's true ownership in their life? Pray for them, *asking the Lord to help them come to reality*, but in confessing their selfishness and trusting Jesus for His saving love.

5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and joy, especially to find your glory (your heart's true satisfaction) in Christ. Pray that He would fill you with His love and peace because of His infinite resources.

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5. **Mission: Created for do justice, love mercy NOT Marginalize.**

Christians are on mission to do justice, love mercy, not marginalize.

- Spend some time asking the Lord to place on your heart friends, co-workers, family, enemies, yourself and even God the Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Evil, my flesh and Satan that you tend to marginalize and how you can enjoy yourself and others differently this week as a child of God, fearfully and wonderfully made.

My friend Peter Patrick pointed out my tendency to marginalize him when I offered him an opportunity to rebuke me for any sin or slighting, he experienced in our relationship. He said, ***“you treat me like I am insignificant”***.

Here is what I wrote in my journal meditation about my tendency to marginalize others. Per usual I needed 2 times reflections to figure out just how pervasive this sinful thinking is.

From my journal:

A man, a real man does not make anyone feel “insignificant”, especially aware of his tendency to marginalize those younger or older than himself ... all the days of his life. The gift rebuke of Peter Patrick on February 17, 2022, at Thursday 4p Book Club Red Door.

A man, a real man does not make anyone feel “insignificant”, especially aware of his tendency to marginalize EVERYONE – including God His Heavenly Father, Jesus his favorite friend and his savior, Holy Spirit His intimate friend and discipler, Satan His deceiving nemesis, HIMSELF, and everyone he knows and those he has never met.... All the days of his life. Rewritten on March 17, 2022, after reflecting for a month on the gift of repentance by Peter Patrick on February 17, 2022.