

Living in Babylon

Chip Ingram suggested that we need to change our attitudes in at least six areas.

We need to emphasize:

Christ – not causes

Healing – not hostility

Relationships – not Real Estate

Innovation – not Indignation

Substance – not Success

Trust – not Technology

Each of these different attitudes suggest certain actions that would honor God.

“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.”
James 2:26

“Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin.”
1 Peter 4:1

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus”
Philippians 2:5

1. Emphasize Christ – not causes

- An attitude that many of us need to change is about Evangelism
- Evangelism is not necessarily going door to door, or memorizing a presentation, or forcing people to listen to our testimony.
- It means that we must spend enough time in the Bible so you can easily talk about the One who is first in your life

2. Emphasize Healing – not hostility

- Chip was suggesting that we take on the role of being peacemakers
- It would mean keeping our eyes open to see what God lays on our heart to do

Here is what I hope Small Groups will do:

- Adopt a person, or family, or group, or ministry, or perhaps a cause.
- The adoption suggests that you care about it like a parent

There are three main goals for this adoption:

- **First** – Your group will be the arms and legs of Christ in our community
- **Secondly** – the working together and planning together is the main thing that actually builds community in a group.
- **Thirdly**, the ministry or group you adopt will become very important to you and those in your group.

3. Emphasize Relationships – not real estate

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John 15:13

- Community is the result of working together with people you like being with – on something you are all passionate about.
- Doing the “actions” of community don't change the attitudes or feelings needed for community.

4. Emphasize Innovation – not indignation

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. Romans 12:6

- God wants each of us to use our gifts and talents for Him
- We can do that as we serve each other in our Small Groups.

- We can do that as we serve in the ministry your group adopts
- Encourage your group members to use their gifts and talents.

5. Emphasize Substance – not success

Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people . . . Joshua 1:9

- God commanded Joshua to be strong and courageous.
- If God commanded it – it must be a decision on our part

- You've been called to be a Small Group leader
- Our culture is the setting for living out our God-given callings
- Courage and strength is something God gives

*His divine **power** has given us everything we need for a godly life through our **knowledge** of him who **called** us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious **promises**, so that through them you may participate in the **divine nature**, having **escaped the corruption** in the world caused by evil desires.* 2 Peter 1:3-4

If we intend to serve God in a meaningful way:

- We must hear and answer His call to serve Him
- Believe His promises – especially about the power He gives
- Be willing to trust Him by asking for His strength and courage

6. Emphasize Trust – not technology

Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:17

- It's small things we can do for others that open big doors

Look – keeping our eyes open so we see the world and people around us

Listen – to the HS – to hear what is He saying to us

Love – Give them what they really need

Lead – Lead your group members to do the same – Dream Small

We have talked about Dream Small in the past

- It means keeping our eyes open for God to reveal small things we can do for people
- Each Small Thing shows a little of God's love
- And when it opens a door – walk through it
- An opportunity to tell about God's love
- Or anything else God might lead you to
- This is how you can see what God can do through You

Christ – not causes
[Evangelism – sharing Jesus]

Healing – not hostility
[Adopting a ministry]

Relationships – not Real Estate
[Building True Community]

Innovation – not Indignation
[Using Spiritual gifts & talents]

Substance – not Success
[Being Strong and Courageous]

Trust – not Technology
[Dreaming Small]

King Xerxes:

Queen Vashti:

The king's advisors:

Mordecai:

Esther:

Haman:

Question

You can see the six emphasis our Small Group ministry is going to pursue in the future. Please describe any ideas you have about how we could be most successful as we do this.

If there is one that interests you the most, please make additional comments that could help us be more successful as we try to create a Small Group ministry that makes disciples and changes lives.

In the discussion from the book of Esther, which of the characters mentioned do you think you are most like in your Small Group ministry?