



Sunday's Announcement

Sermon Questions | 4.17.16

Note for Small Group Leaders: If a number of the people in your group have not heard the April 17 sermon either at Bent Tree or by live streaming, please encourage all of your members to hear this message sometime this week. You may decide that your group would be better served by discussing these questions at another time after all the members have heard the sermon.

Read

Galatians 3:26-28

For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

When Paul wrote this women and slaves were basically one in the same, yet he is pointing here to a universal status of "sons" (read: co-heir) for everyone who is in Christ. What are some practical ways the church can live out this truth that we are all "one in Christ Jesus"?

Engage with God in a Group

1. How do you think this passage applies to the elder's decision shared this morning?
2. What did you take away from the message today that either resonated with you or challenged your previous thoughts on this issue?
3. What about today's sermon made you think differently about the idea of including women as elders in our church?
4. What questions do you have about this decision?

5. If you would like to look more into the subject of women serving as elders here are some options:
 - Read the Elders' paper on women serving as elders.
 - Watch the message from Sunday, April 17 online if you weren't able to see it live.
 - Speak with a Bent Tree staff member.
 - Read any or all of the suggested resources found on the last page of the Fully Shared Leadership paper from the Elders.

(Which, if any, of these options are you likely to follow up with?)

Closing Thoughts/Prayer

As the group leader, ask your group to enter into a time of prayer. List each of the following areas of prayer and ask for anyone who wants to pray for that matter to do so. When that season of prayer seems to be closing then list the next item, again asking for anyone who wants to pray for that issue. Finally, close the group in prayer by pointing everyone to Jesus and his big mission for us (Matthew 28:18-20).

1. Pray for the Bent Tree elders as they seek God's continued direction for our church. (Acts 20:28, "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.")
2. Pray for unity at Bent Tree for the elders and staff as well as its membership (John 17:20-21, "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me").
3. Pray that the Bent Tree elders and family members will not allow any distractions to take our eyes off of Jesus's bigger agenda, the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.").