



CONNECT GROUP GUIDE

Connect Group Guide: WK 4 CHURCH GONE WILD: “Grow Up”

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

1. Paul calls the Corinthians “Brothers and Sisters” while also calling them spiritually immature. Why is it important that our spiritual maturity is not what secures our salvation? How does the gospel give us both assurance and motivation to grow?
2. The sermon said, “Milk is believing the gospel. Meat is living the gospel.” Where have you been content to know the truth without allowing it to transform the way you live? What would “meat” look like in that area of your life?
3. Paul says jealousy, division, and quarreling revealed the Corinthians’ immaturity. What “fruit” is most visible in your life right now? Does it point more toward walking by the flesh or walking by the Spirit, and what does that reveal about what your heart is trusting?
4. Jesus said, “Abide in Me... and you will bear much fruit.” How is abiding in Christ different from simply trying harder to be a better Christian? What practices help you stay connected to Jesus rather than relying on your own strength?
5. The fruit of the Spirit reflects the character of Jesus Himself. Which aspect of Christ’s character (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control) do you most need to remember this week? How does seeing that quality in Jesus encourage you rather than simply giving you another command to obey?
6. Paul teaches that spiritual growth is God’s work (“God gives the growth”), yet believers are commanded to “walk by the Spirit” and “keep in step with the Spirit.” How do God’s sovereignty in sanctification and our responsibility to obey work together without contradicting each other?
7. The gospel doesn’t merely forgive us; it gives us a new identity and new desires through the Holy Spirit. How does understanding the doctrines of justification and sanctification protect us from both legalism (“I must earn God’s favor”) and complacency (“Since I’m forgiven, growth doesn’t matter”)? What would it look like to live daily from your identity in Christ rather than striving for His acceptance?

Deeper Theological Questions

1. Jesus commands us to “abide” in Him because “apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). If spiritual fruit is ultimately produced by the Holy Spirit and not by our own effort, what is the relationship between God’s grace and the spiritual disciplines (prayer, Scripture, obedience, fellowship)? How do we pursue holiness without falling into legalism or passivity?
2. Paul distinguishes between justification (being declared righteous), sanctification (being made holy), and the evidence of genuine faith (the fruit of the Spirit). Why is it theologically important to distinguish the root of salvation (grace through faith in Christ alone) from the fruit of salvation (a transformed life)? How does confusing these truths either undermine the gospel or produce false assurance?

