

April 28, 2024 - Doubt & Deconstruction - Church Hurt

Feel free to **PICK AND CHOOSE** some of the questions below to engage with as a group. Before you leave, be sure to spend some time going over the **Top 3** things your group members need to know.

Connect:

Robert shared an example of betrayal from the movie Braveheart. What movie scenes or literary examples come to mind when you think of betrayal?

Engage:

Read Proverbs 18:14: What does a crushed spirit look like? “As a result of hurt, we can reduce who God is to the worst actions of a few of His people” and put up invisible walls to separate ourselves from the Church and true community. Why are we, and the world, tempted to believe this? What could those “invisible walls” look like?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12: Mission, Method, and Motives: consider these elements in this passage. What takeaways do you have concerning this passage?

Robert shared 2 things we shouldn't do when we are confronted with church hurt in ourselves or others.

1. Deny our possible role in someone else's hurt: How can we acknowledge our part in someone's hurt and address it in a way that would bring glory and honor to God?
2. Diminish someone else's experience of hurt: How can we make people feel seen and heard so that they can work through their hurt in a healthy way?

A good portion of the New Testament was written to address church hurt. Church hurt is NOT disagreement, confrontation, accountability, or being told no. In what ways is this statement challenging? Which of these do you believe is the most difficult for people to accept and why?

Read Galatians 5:14-15: Recognize the real enemy: There is an enemy and it's NOT human. The bait of the enemy is for us to be easily offended and fall out of community. How do we fall into this thinking? How can we move into a place where we can treat others as image-bearers of God and move towards them to LOVE even if we are offended by them?

Read Hebrews 12:2-3 Recognize the real Savior: God uses flawed people and our failures. How can we be careful not to elevate leaders and allow one another to fail and learn from those failures? How can we address failures in one another in a way that is formative and edifying?

Read Hebrews 13:17: What do we not like about this verse? What makes submission to authority challenging? How could submission to authority bring not only leaders joy but YOU personally joy?

Apply:

Church hurt is real, however God has not turned on you and He can minister to you in the midst of your hurt. What are practical steps we can take to move from hurt that may be present in our hearts to forgiveness, release, and healing this week? How can you accept responsibility for the hurt you may have caused others?

Top 3:

Kids' Camp Registration: Sunday, May 5

Don't miss this opportunity to register early for Kids' Camp that will be held July 16-19 from 9 AM - Noon. Kids will be challenged as they discover that God's truth never changes, that everyone needs Jesus, and learn to speak the truth in love! Adventure awaits! Campers can sign up for a discounted price of \$9 on this day only.

Low Country Boil: Wednesday, May 8, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Join us on the F/C Front Lawn for an evening of pinching tails, community fun, and raising money for our summer mission trips. The cost is \$15 for crawfish, corn, and potatoes and \$7 for chicken tenders and chips. At the event, each mission trip team will have ways for you to support and encourage them as they prepare for their trip. For details and tickets, sign up at fondrenchurch.com/events.

Pancakes & Pastors: A Kids Event : Thursday, May 30, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Have you ever wanted to ask the F/C staff questions about the Bible, faith, God, and anything else? Well, now is the time to ask! Come to Pancakes & Pastors - grab a pancake and ask your questions on May 30th.

Recommended Resources:

Church Hurt by Jerome Gray