

gracepoint

A M E T H O D I S T C H U R C H

Homegroup material



I. Introductory Discussion Questions

1. What stood out for you most about the “Love Death” sermon?
2. How do you think a Christian’s view or understanding of death is different from a non-believer’s?
3. Read the following Scriptures about death. What do they reveal to you?

- **1 Corinthians 15 vs 55-58:**

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”

- **Romans 8 vs 38-39:**

“For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- **2 Timothy 1 vs 7-11:**

“For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore you should not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner. But be partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the eternal times. But it is now having been manifested by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has made death of no effect, bringing life and immortality to light through the gospel; to which I am appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher of the nations.”

- **Revelation 21 vs 4-5:**

“And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes. And there will be no more death, nor mourning, nor crying out, nor will there be any more pain; for the first things passed away. And He sitting on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.”

4. How do you feel about death at present?
5. The valley of the shadow of death can often become for us the places of our deepest transformation. Has death had a transforming influence on your life? How?

ii. It all begins in death

1. Christianity really began at Calvary with the death of Jesus Christ. Do you think it is significant that our faith is ultimately rooted in death? Why?
2. What does it mean for you that Jesus died for our sins?
3. 1 Corinthians 15 vs 55-58 talks about how Jesus defeated death and how death has been swallowed up in victory. What do you think this really means?
4. The cross is a symbol of death that has been transformed for us into a symbol of life, victory and hope. Death always comes with the hope of resurrection. Therefore, as Christians, death is no less painful for us, but it is victorious. Do you share this sentiment? Why or why not?

iii. Death re-patterns our relationship with life

1. How do you think it changes us or the way we live when we don't fear death, or know that we will ultimately be victorious in it?
2. We live with eternity imprinted on our souls because we were created for eternity and for immortality. Read 1 Peter 2 vs 11 below. What difference does it make to the way you live, knowing that you are simply a "temporary traveller" on earth?

- **1 Peter 2 vs 11:**

"Dearly beloved, I exhort you as temporary residents and pilgrims to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul..."

3. What lessons do you think death teaches us about how we should live?
4. Jesus said that a prerequisite for discipleship was denying self or dying to self. Read the following Scriptures and discuss what you think this really means?

- **Luke 9 vs 23-24:**

“Then he said to them all: Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.”

- **Romans 12 vs 1-2:**

“I beseech you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God.”

- **Galatians 2 vs 20:**

“I have been crucified with Christ, and I live; yet no longer I, but Christ lives in me. And that life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith toward the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself on my behalf.”

- **Colossians 2 vs 20 - 3 vs 11:**

“If then you died with Christ from the elements of the world, why, as though living in the world, are you subject to its ordinances: touch not, taste not, handle not; which things are all for corruption in the using, according to the commands and doctrines of men? These things indeed have a reputation of wisdom in self-imposed worship and humility, and unsparing severity of the body, but are not of any value for the satisfying of the flesh. If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Be mindful of things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life has been hidden with Christ in God. When Christ our Life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness (which is idolatry), on account of which things' sake the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience, among whom you also once walked, when you lived in these. But now also put off all these things: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, shameful speech out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, having put off the old man with his deeds and having put on the new, having been renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, foreigner, Scythian, slave or freeman, but Christ is all things in all.”

5. Why do you think we cannot really be disciples of Christ unless we die to ourselves?
6. How do you think we practically learn to die to ourselves every day?
7. Paul wrote “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1 vs 21). How do you think he got to this point of complete, unconditional surrender so that he no longer held his earthly life dear?

IV. Death invites us to look at what must die in us

1. In order to experience resurrection and new life (see 2 Corinthians 5:17) we must first be willing to go through the pain of death. What in your life do you currently need to die to? What things within you need to die? (Behaviours, dreams, thoughts, desires, relationships...?)
2. God never condemns us, but He does confront us. How do you think you can open yourself up to God and allow Him to confront you about what needs to die in your life?
3. What is holding you back from being fully surrendered to God and from dying to self?
4. What do you think Jesus meant when he said that “whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.” (Luke 9 vs 24).
5. How do you think dying to self translates into abundant life? (Read and reflect on the following Scriptures):

- **Romans 5 vs 10:**

“For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

- **Romans 6 vs 3-13:**

“Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father; even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been joined together in the likeness of His death, we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection; knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be destroyed, that from now on we should not serve sin. For he who died has been justified from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that when Christ was raised from the dead, He dies no more; death no longer has dominion over Him. For in that He died, He died to sin once; but in that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise

count yourselves also to be truly dead to sin, but alive to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. Do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but yield yourselves to God, as one alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”

6. C.S. Lewis wrote: “Die before you die. There is no chance after.” How will you commit to dying to yourself today?

V. Call to action

1. What will we do with what we have discovered in this session?
2. How will we hold each other accountable to this?