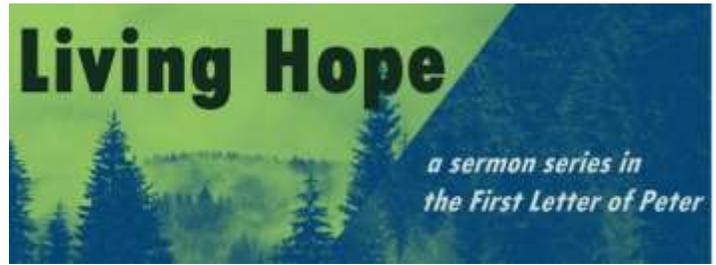




Worship Study Guide for the week of January 10, 2016



WEPC Small Group Network

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org

WEPC's Small Group Network meets in homes across Richmond every week to participate in Jesus Christ's mission to Richmond, enjoy fellowship, study God's word, pray together, and explore the fruit of the Gospel on our lives. Simply put, these groups are small enough to be the church to one another, and they serve as bridges between WEPC and the community where God has planted us. It is a place where the church can go deeper in the worship of God and further in Christ's mission.

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a "worship discussion" guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Sermon: *Honor, Love & Fear*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [1 Peter 2:13-17](#).

Be Subject

- Particularly on Epiphany, we should see submission as a means to mission. A quick review.
- How are we to demonstrate 'honorableness' to those who are suspicious of us? How do we silence those who would persecute and deride the Church?
- The first thing Peter says is "be subject" (13); Not only to the Lord but to every human institution.
- Why? Because it is the will of God.
- What about the Emperor? What about the Emperor's minions? Submit on account of the Lord?
- "Submission to these people is guided by and limited by the phrase 'for the Lord's sake'. The Lord in the New Testament is normally Christ. It is because Christ, not Caesar is Lord that one submits. It is not that people such as rulers or masters have authority in themselves. On the contrary, they are only creatures of God. But the Lord gave an example of submission and the Lord wishes his teaching to be spoken well of, and therefore for his sake one submits. But this also limits submission, for submission can never be to anything he does not will. These authorities are and always remain created beings- Christ alone is ultimate and Lord." (*Peter Davids*)
- Jesus as Lord of all washes feet. Jesus as Lord of all comes to us as a servant.

Be Free

- An objection might be raised here that, "I am free in Christ".
- We are absolutely free, but we are free not to use our freedom selfishly, or for evil intent.
- I am set free to serve.
- We look most like Jesus when we use our freedom and authority to serve.
- "Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor." (17)
- We primarily honor the emperor simply because he is an 'everyone'. We only fear, or revere God.
- What was the worst that the emperor could do to these Christians?
- I think we spend too much time on the 'emperor' and not enough on reverencing the One who made us and loves us.

Going Deeper in **God's Worship**

Reflect on the text together. [Hear the sermon here.](#)

- 1.) What is true about God's character, promises or work?
- 2.) What does the Scripture teach you about yourself or others?
- 3.) Are you encouraged to follow Jesus in His mission? How?

Reflect on the whole of Sunday's liturgy together. Locate this week's [Order of Worship here.](#)

- 1.) Was there an element of the worship service that you would like to share with the group?
 - *A Scripture verse that was read?*
 - *A prayer that was prayed?*
 - *A song that was sung?*
 - *A sacrament that was administered?*
 - *A way that glory was given to God?*
 - *A way that someone encouraged you?*
- 2.) Did the Holy Spirit convict, change, or encourage you in any way you wish to share with the group?
- 3.) Is Jesus leading you or the group to take a specific risk to minister the Good News to Richmond? Your neighbors? Your co-workers? Your family and friends?

Going Further in **Christ's Mission**

- 1.) Have the Scripture text open in front of you as a guide to your prayers.
 - Spend time thanking God and giving Him glory.
- 2.) Ask the Lord for vision, strength and faith as followers of Jesus Christ.
 - Count on the work of the Holy Spirit for change.
 - Ask for God's forgiveness and grace to repent of sin and trust Jesus.
 - Pray for the world, our country, Richmond, and the Church.
 - Pray for members of your group, family members, or co-workers, neighbors and friends.

Kevin Greene, 2016