

## Discussion Questions

### Get Real (and renounce the kingdom of lies)

#### Ephesians 6:10-12 & Acts 19:23-20:1

(When in life have you really felt seen and loved for who you truly are?)

...the data is clear: subatomic particles...are not actually there...until someone consciously observes them... thinks about them.... According to the laws of Quantum Mechanics, if you and I exist in the same reality, someone must be observing us both...a more powerful observer.”—PH

- How does it make you feel to know that a more powerful observer (Scripture calls that God) is observing you & thinking about you and without His watching you, you couldn't exist?
- Why do you think we try to hide ourselves, or things about ourselves, from God and each other?

I think we all want to be seen, and yet, we also all want to hide.

- In what areas do you want to be seen by God and others?
- In what areas are you afraid of being seen and want to hide from God and others?

“To get real and have real relationships with real people, you must live naked before God, the observer, and His Logos—His Word. And...if you refuse to be observed; for you want to be the Lord of your own life, and creator of your own reality...well, perhaps for a time, and in a way, you can.”—P.H

When we hide ourselves from God, it seems we can make a place for the devil—we “desecrate” God's creation and think we are creating a new self, but we are creating a false self—a void. Paul said, “Give no place for the devil.”

- Can you identify any areas in your life where, through hiding in fear, you have given place to the devil? What fears are causing you to hide? Are there any lies behind those fears that the enemy might be whispering in your ear?
- Take a moment to thank God for exposing those to you, confess them to Him, and thank God that in Christ He has destroyed the works of the devil and that His grace in Jesus is revealing that to you in space and time.

Paul urges us to stand against the devil's schemes; some of the schemes that were pointed out in this sermon were the devil's attempts to seduce us into complacency and comfortability rather than taking up our cross and following Jesus.

- Are there any areas in which the enemy might be trying to seduce you into complacency and comfortability rather than taking up your cross?
- Can you identify other schemes of his in your life? If so, what are they?
- What do you think it means to “stand against” them?
- How did Jesus “stand against” the schemes of the enemy? Can you think of times He encountered the enemy and what He did?

In this sermon, we looked at a story (from Acts 19) about Paul's activities in Ephesus, the response the Ephesians had to Paul, and the impact his sharing the gospel had there.

- What stands out to you in that story?
- In what ways would you say Paul “wrestled the powers and principalities” there and what was the response and outcome?
- Can you identify or relate to Paul from your own experiences of sharing the gospel and the effects it had in the communities you shared it in?
- Does the ending of this story in Acts surprise you? “*After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.*”
- Why do you think he responded the way he did?
- If you were in Paul's shoes, what would you do and why?
- Do you think, in Paul's response, he was “strong in the Lord and the strength of his might,” standing in God's armor against the schemes of the devil? Why or why not?

\* These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen