

WHEN CHRISTIANITY GETS TWISTED

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Meeting THEME: Impactful Christian living twisted

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Read II Peter 1: 1 - 11

20.00 – 20.10 Start Anthony's wife has discovered that Anthony struggles with watching pornography. Understandably she feels very sad about this and hurt. Now Anthony wants to break with his addiction. But he also feels a bit sceptic, because he has already tried to break many times – but until now he was not very successful herein. What to your opinion could be helpful for Anthony? And what wouldn't be helpful?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and build you up when you listen to God's Word

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage: Read II Peter 1:1-11. Then read for a second time: II Peter 1:5-11

In today's passage, Peter begins to remind us of what original Christian living looks like. It is an impactful life, a life of virtue and love, springing from the newly received identity.

Look again at 1 : 5 – 7

Some information about these verses:

- 'make every effort' literally it says 'diligently, or being diligent' – this word is also used in 1:10 and 3:14.
- 'supplement' (ESV) 'add' (NIV) – this word is also used in I Peter 1 : 11 'the strength that God supplies. This word supply is used for a very rich person who has great resources that can be used for a certain purpose. Here this word is in the imperative. So literally it says something like: 'being diligent, supply your faith with virtue'.
- 'virtue' (ESV) 'goodness' (NIV) – this word is also used in II Peter 1 : 3. God is a God full of glory and excellence/virtue/goodness. The word ought to be translated twice in the same way, so that we see that besides of the saving faith we have received now and the wonderful hope, we may be transformed in the likeness of God. The same virtue/goodness/excellence (whatever translation you prefer) that is in God, may also become visible in us. The aim of course is that after speaking about faith and hope, Peter also wants to speak about love. When we become loving the way God loved us, then our lives will have impact.
- Aren't such calls as a call to diligence, to make efforts, to supplement your faith, contradictory to trusting God for your sanctification and to the whole idea of grace?

Look again at 1 : 8 - 11

- Which concerns of Peter can you read in these verses (a bit between the lines)?
- Further in the letter you see more concerns of Peter, about a false way of teaching. There will be spoken about grace and freedom, but impactful Christian living, holiness, will be neglected. Do you see this as a risk today?
- When we have come to know Jesus, should we be worried about our future salvation and growth in holiness?

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper

Look back at the question in the beginning of your meeting. What, from this passage, could be helpful for Anthony and how could it be helpful? Have you discovered something that is helpful for you? What (and how does it help you)?

20.50 – 21.00 End the Life Group meeting with praying together.