

Life Group Homework Guide For the week of May 13, 2018 Got Questions – Part 5

1. Can Christians use marijuana for medicinal use? Do you think we lose our "witness" by smoking? Many Christians justify social drinking, but there seems to be a lot more debate on marijuana.

• Medical origins date back 5000 years. First introduced to Western Medicine in 1841. 1940 fell out of favor and became illegal.

Difference between Recreational Cannabis and Medical Cannabis

- Recreational designed to get people high. – THC – plants are bred to have a THC level about 20%.
- Medical C – Cannabidiol – CBD – low concentration of THC.

God has given us life. He has created certain herbs and plants for eating and healing. Genesis 9:3

- Plants that can be good and bad. Opium Poppy – used for many Opioids and Heroin and Opium
- The Bible prohibits drunkenness – Ephesians 5:18, it does not prohibit all uses of alcohol—even those for recreational purposes.
- Can a person consume small quantities of marijuana without any intention of becoming intoxicated?
- The WHOLE DUTY OF MAN – God will be the judge of everything - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.
- Our bodies are to be the temple of God. Ephesians 2:2, 1 Corinthians 3:17, 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 :
- The Bible's take on other mind-altering drugs – Galatians 5:19-21
 - The word translated "sorcery" is the Greek word pharmakeia, from which we get the English word "pharmacy." The primary meaning is "the use or the administering of drugs" (usually associated with sorcery or idolatry).
- Let nothing other than Jesus be master over you - Romans 6:16, Romans 8:5, 1 Peter 1:13-16, 2 Peter 2:19
- The conscience is the key. Romans 14. I believe that this applies to Medical use only.

2. What does Jesus, his disciples and the Bible say about the second amendment? Do we biblically have the moral obligation and right to protect ourselves and family from harm including the government? Is this a gun problem or a people problem?

- The Second Amendment was adopted on December 15, 1791. It reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

What Does the Bible Say About the Right to Bear Arms?

- In the Old Testament "the Israelites were expected to have their own personal weapons. Every man would be summoned to arms when the nation confronted an enemy. The people defended themselves." Read 1 Samuel 25:13, Psalm 144:1, Exodus 22:2, Nehemiah 4:16-18
- In the Old Testament, we find this example of God sanctioning self-defense – Exodus 22:2
- In the New Testament - Jesus sanctioned the use of weapons for self-defense. – Luke 22:35-38
- Peter openly carried his sword, Jesus knew Peter was carrying a sword. He allowed this, but forbid him to use it aggressively.
- Scripture is quite clear that Christians are called to be peacemakers – Matthew 5:9, 38-40
- Weapons in the hands of law-abiding, peace-loving citizens can be used for good purposes such as hunting, recreational and competitive sports, and keeping peace.
- Beyond self-defense, a person properly trained and prepared to use a firearm can actually deter crime, employing the weapon to protect innocent lives and prevent violent offenders from succeeding in their crimes.
- Scripture does not promote vengeance or vigilantism - Romans 12:17-19
- Ultimately, the decision to bear arms is a personal choice determined by one's own convictions. Back to Romans 14.

3. Is there a Biblical reason there are no women serving on the Elder board? Would the church be open to accepting a qualified female on our Elder board?

GOD IS BRILLIANT

- Defining the roles of men and women
- Temperament, gifts, strengths – God defines roles on what works great
- God has set rules of how things are supposed to work. Things start falling apart when we depart from those rules.

TWO BASIC VIEWS – Egalitarian and Complementarian

Egalitarian view basically states that men and women are equal in EVERYTHING

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| • Dignity and Value | • Miriam – a prophetess |
| • Physically, Ability, Roles | • Deborah, Huldah, Anna, Esther since women were in authority therefore all women should be able to do that. |

Egalitarian will go to examples in the bible

Complementarian

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| • God made male and female – Genesis 1:26-27, equal in dignity and value | • God instructed Adam to tell Eve - teaching historically has meant authority |
| • Men and Women have also been created for different roles | • God called women a 'helper' – which doesn't mean something less |
| • Order of Creation – men created first then women | |

•Ish and Isha is how God describes men and woman – hard one and soft one – God says this one (male) is built for this and this one (female) is built for that - Which one is better? Which one is better a Chicken or Duck – equal in values but different roles

•Eve sinned first but Adam was blamed, why because he was the responsible one, he was the head, so blame falls on him.
 •Patriarchs, Prophets – mainly male
 •Armies of men went to war, Temple singers were men
 •12 Disciples/Apostles were men

- The Bible draws a connection between the home and the church.
 - At home men are proving their fitness, to lead their families, to be elders (pastors), and at church they are the ones who are given that role. 1 Timothy 2:12
- **Jesus was pro-woman to the max. But he did not choose women to be apostles.**
 - The Twelve Apostle were all men. That was intentional, because they are all given incredible authority to found the church.
 - Jesus did call women into significant ministry.
 - Read the beginning of Luke 24 or see the role of women at the Resurrection.
 - Jesus broke significant taboos in the way that he elevated the role of women. Luke 7:36-30
- It wasn't because he was enslaved to his times. It was because, in coherence with the rest of the Bible - Genesis 1-2, Ephesians 5, 1 Corinthians 11, and 1 Timothy 2
- There are no spiritual distinctions according to sex. There is neither male nor female. Galatians 3:28
- **There are no Spiritual differences but there are Leadership Role Differences**
- It's not a problem for a woman to minister in hundreds of ways in the church. We have never limited any woman to EXERCISE THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS at Horizon.

4. HOW DID DEBORAH BECOME A JUDGE WHEN WOMEN DIDN'T HAVE RIGHTS?

- Judges 2:16 and 2:18
- v.16 Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders.
- v. 18 Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived;
- CLEAR that God raised up judges. Male and Female
- Deborah was chosen by God because she was the right choice at the time
- John 4 1-28 Story of the Woman at the Well
- Jesus LOVED women! He revered women in a time when 1) She was a Samaritan and not even supposed to speak with Jesus, and 2) She was a SHE! Jesus LOVED, respected and raised up women in a time when they were not truly respected

5. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT MODESTY?

- "We are God's handiwork." (Ephesians 2:10 NIV)
- Made in His image, His creation, His Masterpiece!
- We don't need to conform to the world to be beautiful. 1 Timothy 2:9
- It's OK to go against the grain
- Establish DRESS codes for your young women early! Don't wait until they are 16!
- What could young women do differently??? Poll taken of Horizon Jr. High young Men. "STOP showing cleavage, I'm just saying!"

6. WHAT ENCOURAGEMENT DOES THE BIBLE GIVE TO MOTHERS?

- God wants to encourage you as he leads you each day. He says in Isaiah 40:11
- "He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the
- He leads us – Mothers, keeps us close to His heart, helping us with our young...
- King Lemuel – author of Proverbs 31:1, listened to his mother!
- Be ENCOURAGED although it may seem like deaf ears....your children listen to you!
- Your Children learn from you!

7. Is tithing based on gross or net income?

- The word tithe is a Hebrew Word. It stems from the root word ESER, it means literally, "A Tenth Part," or "A Tenth."
- The practice of tithing was established in the Old Testament. The tithe was a requirement of Old Testament law in which all Israelites were to give a tithe (10%) of everything they earned, be it monetary, crops or animals—to the Tabernacle/Temple. Read Leviticus 27:30
- Literally, the tithe was "Holy" which in Hebrew means set-apart or sacred.

- Modern believers are not commanded to give 10% of their income. There is no doctrine in the New Testament
- A modern believer should give what he or she believes God would have them give. It all goes back to the attitude of the heart. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7.
- Read Luke 21:4. In some ways, the New Testament mandate of being a sacrificial giving
- In general, many churches, and many believers have found that the Old Testament tithe amount of 10% is a good place to start the conversation and the practice of tithing.
- When you establish this kind of practice of giving for your family, you demonstrate your thankfulness to God for what He has provided and you build faith and trust in God instead of on your own wealth and savings.

8. How do you know when God's testing you or when the devils tempting you?

- God tests, the Devil tempts. The Bible teaches us that God never tempts us but he does test us. King David was crazy enough to ask God to test him! Read 26:2
- When God tests us or allows us to be tested, it is an exercise of faith. Going through the test, even if we fail it, often leads towards a lifetime of deeper faith and trust in God.
- Read James 1:2-4. James recognizes that there is a process by which our faith grows.
- As for temptations. The Bible teaches that temptations come from two places, the Devil and our own sinful "flesh." Read Matthew 26:41
- The Devil tempts us to sin. Read Acts 5:1-10
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. Regardless of test, temptation of flesh, or temptation from the Devil, God promises that He will always provide a way out.
- You cannot be forced into sin... this means our response during times of testing and times of tempting should always be the same... lean into God, let Him grow you in your faith, pray like Jesus, "to not be lead into temptation" and trust that you will never tempted beyond what you can bear.

9. What happens if we keep sinning but keep praying for forgiveness and to have a change of heart? Will we be forgiven?

- On the one-hand this question is an open-and-shut case kind of question. Read 1 John 1:9
- This is an incredible promise! Case-closed, end of discussion. If you confess your sins, God will forgive you.
- It is possible for someone to think they have asked for forgiveness and not actually done so. What I mean is that someone might say the words but not truly have a repentant heart. Read 1 John 3:9
- No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God."
- Part of the Christian life is a dying to sin. The longer we are Christians and the closer we become to Christ, the more we should like Him, act like Him, sound like Him and smell like Him. This doesn't mean you will become sinless. Read 1 John 1:8
- The struggle never goes away, but there should be evidence of repentance in the life of a believer and evidence of a desire to rid sin from your life.

10. How did Deborah become a judge when women didn't have rights?

- CLEAR that God raised up judges. Male and Female. Read - Judges 2:16 and 2:18
- Deborah was chosen by God because she was the right choice at the time
- Read John 4 1-28 Story of the Woman at the Well - Jesus LOVED women! He revered women in a time when 1) She was a Samaritan and not even supposed to speak with Jesus, and 2) She was a SHE! Jesus LOVED, respected and raised up women in a time when they were not truly respected

11. What does the bible have to say about modesty?

- Made in His image, His creation, His Masterpiece! Read Ephesians 2:10
- We don't need to conform to the world to be beautiful. Read 1 Timothy 2:9
- It's OK to go against the grain
- Establish DRESS codes for your young women early! Don't wait until they are 16!
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12. What encouragement does the bible give to mothers?

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13. What is spiritual abuse?

SPIRITUAL ABUSE happens when spiritual authority, a leader, pastor, or any clergy seek to control individuals and ensure obedience. **SPIRITUAL MANIPULATION** is a technique used by some to control individuals and acquire gain, all the while giving the impression that their teachings are based on the Bible.

- A spiritually abusive group might claim that they are God's only channel of communication
- Spiritual abuse can occur when there is misuse of Scripture to bolster their own authority.
- They isolate "proof texts" and "cherry pick" verses to persuade the uninformed that their interpretation is right

See Hebrews 13:17, 2 Peter 2:1-3, and Ephesians 1:22

- Our loyalty is to Christ, the Head of the church, not an organization, church, or leader.
- Jesus' yoke is easy, and His burden is light says [Matthew 11:30](#).
- Those who claim to speak for Jesus today should not be placing heavier burdens on people than Jesus would.

Shepherds who abuse the flock can expect severe punishment when the Lord returns! Read Luke 12:46-48

All Christians need to be alert to spiritual abuse & manipulation and follow this example from Acts 17:11

- Any religious group that prevents its members from doing independent research, or from challenging what the leadership says, must have something to fear.

Jesus told His disciples there would be sheep among wolves. See Matthew 10:16

The Master's yoke is easy, and His burden is light. He gives us rest and is gentle and humble in heart. See Matthew 11:28-29

14. What does the Bible Say about Mental Illness and Medicine?

- A mental illness is a medical condition, a disorder of the brain. The brain is a physical organ just like the heart, thyroid, the joints, etc.
- **Great Thought to Ponder:** *All human brokenness is the result of sin infecting the human condition at the Fall. Some mental disease is caused by spiritual issues such as unrepentant sin or demonic oppression, where some is due to chemical imbalance or brain disease, just like other organ diseases such as heart or liver.*
- In Jesus day, illnesses were often attributed to sin. John 9:1-12
- See Romans 12:2 and Philippians 4:6-8
- Does personal sin contribute to mental illness?
- Unmistakably, sin wreaks havoc in peoples' lives, both personal trespasses and trespasses done to us - Matthew 6:9-15.
- I do believe that we as a society are too dependent on drugs to make us feel better. It is easier to take a pill than to deal with the feelings with some and doctors are quick to prescribe these, as some have called them their "happy pills." Addiction to medicine is at an all-time high!
- There is also the question Paul refers to as the 'thorn in the flesh'. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Psalms 46:1, and Proverbs 28:13

15. What does the Bible Say about SUICIDE?

There are 6 accounts of suicide in the Bible, the most notorious being those of King Saul (1 Samuel 31:2-5) and Judas (Matthew 27:3-5). Others are Abimelech (Judges 9:50-54), Samson (Judges 16:23-31), Ahithophel (2 Samuel 17:23), and Zimri (1 Kings 16:15-20).

- We don't see any of them condemned for taking their life!

The Apostle Paul addresses the Thessalonian Church - 1 Thessalonians 4:13

MYTH #1: *Suicide is the "Unpardonable Sin"*

The bible does not make distinctions between sins! There is not one sin that alienates you from God!

MYTH #2: *"If the person was a real Christian she would never get that Despondent" ...*

- People in the bible who were despondent to the point of death were *Moses, Job, Jonah, and Elijah*

MYTH #3: *"The person committing suicide is not responsible for her decision. She was despondent and depressed"*

- God does not give a pass, she/he is responsible for the decision. There is judgment for ALL of us! Rom 8:38-39, Psalm 40:11-12

MYTH #4: *"I am Responsible" OR "You feel someone else is responsible"*

- God is not going to hold anyone accountable for the decision a person who commits suicide made to end his/her life.

LAST MYTH #5: *"The last decision defines his/her life"*

- Satan is a liar and father of lies! We do not measure the totality of a person's life by the last deed of that individual.