

2023 Aim Check-in

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
 - Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
1. In the time since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set for 2023?
 2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

Discussion Questions Set #1

"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." (1 John 4:18)

In sermon, we talked about the idea that the follower of Jesus is to find motivation for obedience in love and not in the fear of judgment.

1. How might love-based obedience differ from fear or judgment-based obedience?
2. Does love-based obedience permit the pursuit of legalistic loopholes more or less than does fear-based obedience? Discuss.
3. Describe the shape of a "love your God wholeheartedly", "love your neighbour as yourself" shaped life. What might this look like?
4. How does the command to "love your neighbour as yourself" come into play in our topic for the day (the commandment to not murder)?

Discussion Questions Set #2

"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny." (Matthew 5:21-26)

1. How might anger be the root of murder?
2. Why do you think anger is such a primary focus of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount? Why does He start here and not with some other issue?
3. Discuss Jesus' approach to judgment in this passage (murder = vague judgement, calling someone 'raca' = Sanhedrin judgment, calling someone a fool = fire of hell judgment). Does this seem right? Consider the point Jesus might be trying to make that all sin ultimately leads to separation from God?
4. Have you ever considered that unresolved anger has a bearing on our worship and as followers of Jesus, it creates a barrier to our loving of God wholeheartedly. Do you agree?
5. Discuss the following quote: *"when our true target is loving others, then we will not permit our anger to develop sinfully"*.
6. Practically, what does it look like to not sin in our anger?
7. Discuss what it looks like to pursue reconciliation in anger damaged relationships, keeping in mind the following caveats:
 - a. This responsibility to pursue reconciliation ought only to be taken for what others hold against us when it is owing to real sin or blundering on our part.
 - b. We are responsible to *pursue* reconciliation, but this will mean living with the pain if it does not succeed. In other words, we are not responsible to make reconciliation happen.