

## **Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | November 6, 2022**

### **Open with prayer (5 minutes).**

Take a few minutes to acknowledge God's presence as you begin your group time. Ask Him to lead your group through a good discussion and to help you internalize the Scriptures.

### **Read 1 Corinthians 9:1-23 and debrief the sermon (40 minutes).**

*Select a few of these questions to help you discuss the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.*

- Have you ever heard of Christian author and speaker Elizabeth Eliot? She has a list of personal rights that we must surrender as we follow Jesus. Check it out below:

The right for a comfortable home (Luke 9:57-58)

The right to defend your reputation (Matthew 5:11)

The right to hold a grudge against an enemy (Matthew 5:43-47)

The right to spend your money however you want (Matthew 6:19-21)

The right to complain (Philippians 2:14)

The right to put yourself first (Philippians 2:3-4)

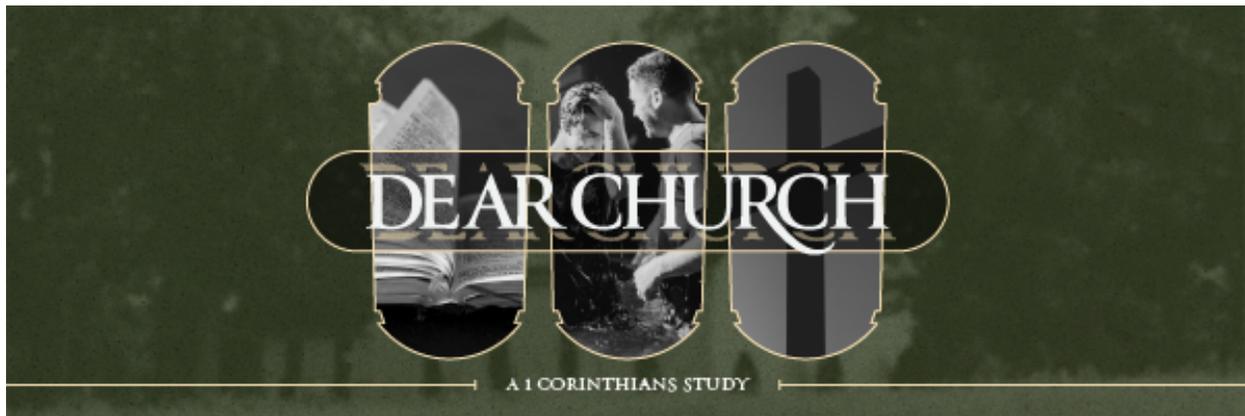
The right to express your sexuality however you please (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)

The right to live your life by your own rules (John 14:23-24)

Would you add anything to this list? If so, what?

Which of these rights do you struggle with relinquishing the most? Explain.

- We're thankful to live in a country that recognizes our rights. However, do you think having these constitutional rights can cultivate an attitude of entitlement in us? If yes, how do you see this on display? If not, explain.
- How might that entitlement tarnish our witness for Jesus?
- When you look at how Paul engages with his personal "rights," how does that contrast with how our culture views personal "rights" today?



- What reasons keep you from letting go of your personal rights?
- What “rights” do you see Paul giving up in this **1 Corinthians** passage? What seems to be his specific reasoning?
- Read **Philippians 2:5-11**. What rights did Jesus give up? What was his reasoning?
- In his sermon, Dan quoted Hudson Taylor, the missionary to China. Taylor said, “If I had a thousand pounds, China should have them all. If I had a thousand lives, China should have them all. And not China, but Christ. Can we do too much for Him? Can we do too much for such a precious Savior?” What would it look like for you to have the same mindset as Paul and Jesus and Hudson Taylor?
- How would that mindset change your relationships, your marriage, your friendships, how you parent, etc.?

**Take a moment to pray individually (10 minutes).**

As you wrap up your group time, take a moment to pray. Instruct your group to have a moment of quiet. Have them quietly ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind something from this night’s discussion that they need to carry with them going forward.

Then, after a few moments, have an open time for people to prayerfully ask for God’s help in realizing what the Spirit spoke to them out loud.

**Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).**

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone’s prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.