

Connect Group notes

A Faith that works - Week 4 - Waging war on your ego

This week we began thinking through how Ego is the enemy of connection.

Start talking...

Over the past year where have you felt the greatest level of disconnection and how has that effected you?

Start discussing...

Read James 4: 1-3

- Can you identify with the feeling that there is a war going on inside of you between who you want to be and the things that you do or think? What is an example of this?
- How do you see ego effect that war in both yourself and in others around you?

On Sunday we looked at how James talks about the war on ego but identifies battles in judging others and in boasting.

Look at each one in turn and open up discussion...

Judging

Read James 4: 11-12

- When is a time where you have felt judged by someone and how did you respond to that?
- How might judging others lead to barriers between people and what can the effects be?
- On a scale of 1-10 how judgmental do you think you are and what might be at the root of that in you?
- How do you find the balance between not judging someone, but equally not accepting behaviour that is not ok?

Boasting

Read James 4: 13-16

- How has the unravelling of your plans in the last year effected you and what have you learnt about yourself in this process?
- How guilty are you of 'putting your best results on display' and what might be at the heart of our temptation to do that?
- How do you view weakness and failure in yourself, and how do you expect others to respond to it?

Jesus and others

If you are part of Christs own body, your sins evoke his deepest heart , his compassion and his pity. He 'takes part with you' - that is, he is on your side. He sides with you against your sin, not against you because of your sin.'

Gentle and Lowly by Dane C Ortlund

- How easy to do find that quote to comprehend, and how easy do you find it to build a bridge, and move towards the mess in others when it would be easier to judge it or compare it?
- How does your perception of how Jesus view your mistakes effect how you see the mistakes in others and how might we better recognise our corporate brokenness?

Start applying...

- Who is one person or people group that you might feel actively challenged to move towards this week and how might you do that?

Start Praying...

Putting aside our own egos, who is one person or people group that you could pray for now that you struggle to 'stand with'?