

# Discussion Questions

## LifeGroups



Date: December 20, 2020  
Sermon Series: Ugly Christmas Sweater  
Sermon Title: Ugly Motives  
Sermon Text: Matthew 6:1-4

### Bottom Line

The truth of God, in the hands of a life fully surrendered to God, is a powerful force in defeating the lies of the evil one.

### Scripture

Matthew 6:1-5; 16 (NLT)

*1 "Watch out! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. 2 When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. 3 But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. 4 Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you 5 When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get... 16 And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get."*

Jeremiah 17:9-10 (NLT)

*9 "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? 10 But I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve."*

1 Corinthians 1:30 (NLT)

*30 God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.*

Romans 5:1-2 (NLT)

*1 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. 2 Because of our faith,*

*Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.*

Matthew 6:2-4 (NLT)

*2 When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. 3 But when you give to someone in need, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. 4 Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.*

1 Corinthians 8:3 (NLT)

*3 But the person who loves God is the one whom God recognizes.*

Romans 8:16-17 (ESV)

*16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.*

## **Gratitude, Prayer and Accountability**

What happened this past week that you are grateful for? What would you like to prayer for today? How did God work in your life since the last time we were together? What is He doing through you as it relates to your Adopt 7?

### **Let's Start**

What is your favorite Christmas movie? Do you have a favorite Christmas tradition?

### **Let's Talk**

1. Read Matthew 6:1-5; 16. What does Jesus teach us about motives in this passage?
2. Pastor Dale spoke about the three important spiritual disciplines in Jesus' day. The Pharisees made a show of their good deeds. They did good things with the wrong motives. How easy is it for us to fall into the same trap?
3. Tim Keller says, 'If you wait until your motives are pure and unselfish before you do something, you will wait forever!' It's confusing, isn't it? How do you keep from having a small, self-focused heart?
4. Read Jeremiah 17:9-10. What does this passage teach us about monitoring our motives?

5. Dr. Paul Chappell, President of West Coast Baptist College writes, "You couldn't be any more loved by God than you are right now... We all love affirmation. We all desire significance and recognition. We all benefit from being encouraged by others. And yet, this silent struggle for approval can often become an over-riding motivation that keeps us on an unpredictable roller coaster of insecurity and instability."

How does it make you feel to know that you couldn't be loved any more by God than you are right now? Do you agree or disagree with that statement?

6. What do the following passages teach us about what God has done for us?
  - 1 Corinthians 1:30
  - Romans 5:1-2
  - Matthew 6:2-4
7. Read 1 Corinthians 8:3. What is the blessing that this verse teaches us that those who love God receive? What does it mean to be recognized by God?
8. Read Romans 8:16-17. What do these verses teach us that God is producing in those who follow Him?

## Let's Act

It's Christmas week. And, even though Christmas looks different this year, we have an opportunity to shine bright. This week's message showed us that:

1. We need to mind our motives.
2. We already have from God what we are seeking from others.
3. Seek your glory by seeking God's glory.
4. Your glory is knowing that God knows you
5. Your glory is the anticipation of being transformed with the illumination of Christ.

Let's pray for each other this week. Let's pray that any interaction that we have with others would be a reflection of Christ's work in us.

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