

## Small Group/Sermon Notes based on The War: Part 7

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **The War: Part 7 "Morale"**
- Are there any moral issues in the Body of Christ?
  - How are we doing with **Romans 12:9-18**?
  - More simply put, how are we doing with **Philippians 2:5**?
- From a pastor's perspective, if moral is high then we are good! If not, watch out!
- Morale Builders (Discuss the following. What other morale builders have you experienced?):
  - Tangible Gains. People getting saved, baptized, church growth, building project, etc.
  - Purposeful Projects. New Vision. Team Xtreme.
  - Answered Prayer. Healings, provision, peace in the storm, etc.
  - Spiritual Growth. Personal spiritual growth. Uplifting services.
  - Relationships. Small Groups. Friends. Mentors.
- Morale Busters: (Discuss the following. What other morale busters have you experienced?):
  - Conflict: Hurts, problem people, bad leadership, internal injustice.
  - Unanswered Prayer. Mad at God or disillusioned with God/church/service.
  - Ministry Failure. Burn out.
  - Boredom. Seems pointless. Misery gospel. People leaving church.
- I'm glad we can believe for abundant life now!
  - That seems to be a big mistake for many. They got **John 10:10** backwards!!
  - Still, we have a greater purpose than this life and we are strong enough not to be slaves to our own comfort and happiness!
- If morale is low, what can we do besides just try harder? Let's look at 2 things:
  - Church Conflict: (Operate under the assumption of a healthy church culture and decent leadership. If that is missing this won't work.)
    - **Philippians 4:2-8**
      - **V2-3** describes the problem. Personal conflict.
      - **V4** gives a strategy for dealing with this!
      - **V5-7** are interesting in this context!
      - **V8** gives magnificently helpful advice!
    - 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter, is also dealing with church conflict.
      - It is not personal conflict but a policy/practice conflict with how to let spiritual gifts operate during their gatherings.
  - Ministry Trials:
    - Things don't just magically workout when we decide to step out for Christ.
    - There is burn out, ministry failures, cruel saints, and a steep learning curve!
    - Compare **1 Corinthians 15:58** and **Matthew 15:9**.
      - What is the difference between the two verses? Can we trust 1 Cor 15:58 for us?
    - What do we do to insure that our labor is not in vain?
      - Abide in the vine: **John 15:5**.
      - Do your best! Bad work will not produce good results!
      - Learn the lessons and persevere!
  - How do we keep our moral up in all circumstances?
    - Back to Philippians 4. **Philippians 4:10-13**.
      - But he doesn't specifically say what the secret is!
        - I think the secret is **Hebrews 12:2-3**. Let's "fix our eyes" today.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!