

The Team for Courageous Loyalty

Join with me... everyone deserted me... 2 Timothy 1:12-18

There are no bleachers on the battlefield!

We are either _____ or _____...

... The Word of God

... The People of God

Battle line:

1. Many are _____ and _____ away from God’s Word and God’s people.

All in Asia turned away... Phygelus and Hemonenes... 15

Apply: In Christ’s mission, we can’t remain loyal to the words if we abandon the relationships. cf. Hebrews 10:23-25 (in context)

“Let us draw near... hold fast the confession...

*Let us stimulate one another... not forsaking our **assembly...**”*

Assembly: The new *synagogue* – a specific community gathered for _____, _____, and _____.

2. Some _____ out and _____ with God’s Word and God’s people.

Onesiphorus...often refreshed me and was not ashamed... 16

Apply: My *ministry* is a _____ of _____ to God’s people or _____ the _____ out of them. (Which would the church, neighbors, coworkers say it is?)

* Do people breathe a sigh of relief when I _____ or _____?

* Do I destroy _____ under the banner of *Fidei Defensor*?

* Do the people I serve sense they are _____?

Challenge: Am I *joining with* or *turning away*?

- Do I _____ missional, gospel relationships?
- Am I loyal to the commitment to _____?
- Do I _____ people with _____ and _____?

Refresh – Breathe again; to give a “second wind”

Compassion – Feel/suffer with; to open our lives and hearts

How does SSEFC plan for this?

Life-sharing Communities:

- Worshipping **Communities**
- Connect and Grow **Communities**
- Missional **Communities** (serving God, others, *one another*)

Discussion Guide: Courageous Loyalty and God's People

Prepare:

- When have you been in Paul's cell – abandoned, alone, discouraged and needing refreshment?
- Did God send you an Onesiphorus? How did they serve and refresh you?
- When have you been in Onesiphorus' sandals – knowing someone was desperate for companionship, compassion and camaraderie?
- What are your "go to" strategies for serving and refreshing God's people that may be discouraged, isolated or suffering?

Practice: Since our goal is to obey God's Word, not just understand it!

- Set an "encouragement chair" in the middle of your group and take turns (one at a time, starting with the leader, since leaders *go first*) sitting in the chair. The group shares encouragement and refreshment for the person in the chair. The encouragement should be truthful, not made-up flattery, and authentic. It should focus on ways that person serves you or you see them serving others or the way God has gifted them and uses them in the Body. (Yes, I know that it is embarrassing to have a group focus on you – even in a positive way. But, we aren't ready to share in another's heart needs if we won't open our heart to their input.)
- Plan a group activity to "breath fresh air" into someone. This could be as simple as a card-shower or letter writing campaign or as involved as spending a group night meeting practical needs for someone who is suffering or under a heavy burden.

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... The Word of God

... The People of God

Battle line:

1. Many are ashamed and turn away from God's Word and God's people.

All in Asia turned away... Phygelus and Hemonenes...

15

Apply: In Christ's mission, we can't remain loyal to the words if we abandon the relationships. cf. Hebrews 10:23-25 (in context)

"Let us draw near... hold fast the confession..."

*Let us stimulate one another... not forsaking our **assembly...**"*

Assembly: The new *synagogue* – a specific community gathered for worship, fellowship, and instruction.

2. Some seek out and join with God's Word and God's people.

Onesiphorus...often refreshed me and was not ashamed... 16

Apply: My *ministry* is a breath of fresh air to God's people or knocking the wind out of them.

(Which would the church, neighbors, coworkers say it is?)

* Do people breathe a sigh of relief when I come or go?

* Do I destroy relationships under the banner of *Fidei Defensor*?

* Do the people I serve sense they are disposable?

Challenge: Am I joining with or turning away?

- Do I search out missional, gospel relationships?
- Am I loyal to the commitment to be there?
- Do I refresh people with service and compassion?

Refresh – Breathe again; to give a "second wind"

Compassion – Feel/suffer with; to open our lives and hearts

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