**Cleaning House – Part Two**

**GOALS & GUIDELINES:**
**ICEBREAKER:  What is a household chore you hate doing?**
**AGREEMENT PRAYER**
**PRAISE**
**EDIFY:**

The last time we were together we started talking about cleaning house. That is basically getting our life in order, both inwardly and outwardly. In about a month most of the world will be making resolutions, we decided to not wait because as we learned… **Anytime is the right time to make a commitment to move in the right directions for your life.**

Something that is repeated often in scripture is an instruction to a dying person to *“set your house in order”.* It is basically an instruction to a person to get their affairs in order, make their wishes known, repair relationships that mattered, honor agreements and commitments, because a person’s time in life was drawing to a close. This seems to be a really bad strategy. We determined that instead of positioning ourselves to die, we would position ourselves to live.

**Q-** What is the hardest part of making a change in your life? Why?

***Hebrews 12:1***  *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses,* ***let us throw off everything that hinders*** *and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run* *with perseverance* *the race marked out for us.*

An enormous part of cleaning house, of getting our life in order, involves throwing stuff away, getting rid of junk, and taking out the trash. In this text the Apostle lets us know that ***what you fail to discard can have the same affect on your life as sin.*** In the Old Testament story of Jonah, the mariners would have died in the storm had they not discarded the cause for the storm, Jonah. He was the rubbish that had to be tossed.

**Q-** What do you think of the statement; **What you fail to discard can have the same affect on your life as sin.** Can you share an instance where that rings true?

Old wounds, old habits, old ways of thinking, ungodly relationships, are just a small sampling of junk that needs to be jettisoned out of our lives. During the westward expansion of America the route west was littered with discarded items. Most of them seemed essential at the outset of the journey, but the deeper the pioneers got in their journey, and the closer the got to their destination the less important those things seemed. What’s more, many times the choice to discard an item was literally the choice between life and death. There was simply no way for their pack animal to pull heavy furniture across vast distances. In the Old Testament story of Jonah, the mariners would have died in the storm had they not discarded the cause for the storm, Jonah. He was the rubbish that had to be tossed for the sailors to survive.

**Q-** What are some spiritual things people hang on to way too deep into their journey?

Hebrews 6:1 tells us that we can hang on to theology to tightly. We have to leave some things in order to grow.

In the Old Testament God provided Israel with manna, daily bread, which was all they needed to be well nourished for their journey. They were instructed to gather only enough for one day. It was not God’s plan for them to be packing too much on their journey. If they tried to stockpile more it would become rotten and full of maggots. We are on a journey, and we do not need to be overburdened. Anything we endeavor to hoard will soon putrefy and in time poison us. Don’t wait for January 1. Get rid of anything that might be rotten in your life right now.

**Internal Q-** Personally, are there some things you should have already discarded long ago? Is there something hindering you? **<Pray>**

**Vision:** We have 1 more Connect Group this year! Make sure you are a part of it! Bring a friend! Help us grow.

Goals and Guidelines

1. Grow in relationship with each other
2. Grow in relationship with God
3. Grow in number and multiply

 This is a non-denominational meeting where everyone's thoughts, ideas, and opinions are to be respected. Everyone is welcome and we encourage all to share their feelings.

We will not argue or debate!

We place God's Word as the highest authority.

We all share equally in the ownership of this Connect Group*,* therefore we will all participate in hosting meetings from house to house on a weekly basis.

We will be committed to attendance and arriving on time.

When sharing, we follow 3 simple rules...
Stay on subject
Keep it short
Keep all comments appropriate.

We will build confidence and trust with each other and become transparent.

What is said in here stays in here. No gossip!

Last but not least… We will invite others to our Connect Group!

**2 Corinthians 6:2 (NIV)** I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

**Hebrews 12:1** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

**Hebrews 6:1** Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity