

M **BILIZE** **2020 PHASE 2** **THE LEADER AND DISCERNMENT**

Introduction

It's been a wonderful privilege I think this is part 6? Am I right? I think so yeah six weeks! So just a big thank you for me for everybody sticking with us and keeping on coming to every Tuesday evening.

I think we've got one more to go next week and then it's a more of a summarised kind of thing the week after but I really do want to thank you I know that a lot of you are busy doing lots of other things. So it's been brilliant to go on this journey together with you and when it all finishes I don't know what we're gonna do on Tuesday evening so I'll be completely, I'll play Scrabble with Liz or something, I don't know, but it's been wonderful.

We have covered a lot of ground, obviously, and as I've done each week just to remind you very quickly of last week's conversation that we had when we looked at the leader and his calling, her calling. and I really hope and pray that throughout this week since then some of you have had your sense of confirmation of what God maybe has called you to do. We talked last week a lot about some of you are on a journey and you're not quite sure what God's called you to do but actually it's good to be on the journey and to know that eventually that sense of calling will be mapped out and you'll begin to discover it so I hope some of you started the journey last week.

For some of you it might have rekindled, the sense of calling. I actually, I didn't mention this last week but after I'd finished speaking, I did actually feel that there was some of you who have sense God's calling over your lives in the past, and it's not that you've disobeyed or something, it's just that you've got caught up in other things and maybe God was rekindling that calling on your life again from last week so if that's you, I'd love to hear from you actually, because it's encouraging to know God's spoken, put me back on track and I'm, I'm now going for it once again as well.

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So tonight we're going to move on and we're going to look at Paul's passion for Timothy, and for us as well here this evening, to be able to discern. For me this is a very big issue, I probably said that every week actually, but it's a very big issue, and very, very at the fore of life in the New Testament.

When you read through the epistles particularly you realise that Paul, and other writers in the epistles are addressing a lot of issues that are related to genuine difficulties, and discernment is needed to know what is the right way to go forward. There was so much error around in the early church. There was so much deception. There was a lot of divisiveness we sometimes think of the early churches this kind of perfect group of people, and they were wonderful and they were empowered and they were pioneers, and leading



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with great cost, but they weren't perfect and there were divisiveness and there was deception and error and one of the reasons for that is, it's all full of people.

I've often said to people if the church didn't have people in it, it will be just a wonderful perfect thing to be involved in, but unfortunately I'm a member of the church, which means it's not perfect, and unfortunately you're a member of the church which means it's not perfect either and just as in the New Testament days is the same today, the, the possibility of things going wrong or people believing things they shouldn't believe is just very real.

It'd be foolish of us to think this is a problem in the New Testament therefore because it's a problem with us today. So this is a vital issue for us to look at. I would say, actually even in the last 10 years, my experience is the possibility of people getting into things that are wrong, for people having wrong emphases, for people being deceived about things has grown massively just in the last 10 years. I

think the Internet has got a lot to do with this. I think the availability to hear lots and lots of different voices speaking all of the same time can be very confusing for people.

If you just take COVID, this season we're in for example, I mean how many different people have different views about what we're supposed to do to handle this and what the cause of it is and when are we going to come out of it and who's right and who's telling the truth and who is actually making things up and so we find in the world we live in, there's conspiracy theories, there's fake news, there's post truth news.

And sadly, that's not only true of the world in which we live, the secular world, but it's also true of the church. We're living in a day when even the Christian world are full of very confusing voices and as leaders, therefore, there has never been such a vital issue as the ability to discern.

What is discernment? Well, it's to discern what is good and bad, basically. It's to discern what is right and what is wrong. It's the ability to discern what is demonic and what is angelic. It's the ability to discern what is true and what is false. I want to add to that, it's also, and we're going to look at this tonight, the ability to discern about what is, cultural, and what is creational. It's even the ability to discern what is national, and what is international, which some of you might find a bit strange but I think it's very, very important. The Gospel must work everywhere in the world, the Kingdom of God must work everywhere in the world so I'm always a little bit nervous if, whatever someone is teaching, only works in the West and it doesn't work throughout all the nations of the world and that makes me really really nervous.

I remember a time about 20 years ago in the UK and this is going to feel irrelevant to you, because it's meant to feel irrelevant to you, because that's my example, but about 20 years here in the UK, Christians started to get very excited about what we call Celtic Christianity. And that's basically the kind of Christian experience there was before Roman Catholicism and Protestantism came to the UK. So everyone 20 years



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ago got very excited about Celtic Christianity and there were books on it and conferences on it and I started to think that something's very strange here and the reason that it was strange and probably not right is because Celtic Christianity is irrelevant to a whole sections of the rest of the world. It's a British problem rather than a global problem. I started to think we're getting very, very distracted by this.

So what are some of the things even in Zimbabwe, that might be nationalistic or syncretistic or issues that you're facing or in Mozambique or wherever you are, that actually are not biblical. They're just cultural and nationalistic rather than international and beyond culture.

Just very quickly because we want to get to Timothy, discernment is vital to bring clarity, where there is confusion and discernment, is how to deal with things that seem on the surface to be very important, but actually they're quite minor issues.

I think the church gets caught up in all kinds of things that are distractions that seem important but they're not really. And so as leaders, you can see what a massive subject this is, we need to be completely able to discern, all of these things.

So let me share some good news with you. The Bible teaches us that leaders can be well equipped when it comes to discernment and not overwhelmed by the enormity of the issue before us, and Paul's appeal to Timothy is for him to be completely confident that God will always give him the discernment that he needs for every situation that he faces. So there is the promise of wisdom from God from above wherever we don't know what to do, the Bible says God will give us wisdom, if we ask Him.

So if you want to be full of discernment, if you want to be wise, then we need to be people who inquire of the Lord, and He will give us the discernment that we need because wisdom comes from above. Scripture also teaches us that we have the mind of Christ, which means when you don't know whether something's right or wrong, you can just be confident that God will speak to you, and He will give you what Jesus thinks about situations. And that's not just an individual thing but it's a corporate thing. We together have the mind of Christ, which leads me on to my next point, which is that we can be encouraged if we lack discernment, because we're not alone. He's put us in a body. There are teachers in the family of God. There are prophetic people in the family of God. There are brothers and sisters who have knowledge that God has given to them. And I actually found in my life when I haven't really known something, I don't just stay individualistic, I go talk to people and I ask them what do you think about this, how should we be discerning this so we find people a little bit further along the road than we are and they can help us because they can bring discernment into our lives.

I'm glad I'm part of a team, aren't you? I don't want to be my own, because when I'm part of a team and we don't know what to do, it's not all down to me, but corporately we will discern what God wants to say to us in this different situation. So, we're not to despair tonight as leaders, we're not to be overwhelmed. We



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have wisdom from above, we have the mind of Christ and we have the body of Christ. Let me add one more thing to ask to encourage us. We also have the promise of a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Paul mentions in 1Corinthians 12 v10, that one of the gifts of this spirit is the distinguishing between spirits which is the same as discernment. So in other words, not only do we have these other things but the Holy Spirit can instantly give us the ability to discern. We talk about the gifts of the Spirit, we often talk about tongues, interpretation and prophecy and word and faith and gifts of healing. Let's not forget there are other gifts of the Spirit, and one of them is the ability to discern. It's a supernatural impartation that we can ask God for that gift and this gift of the Spirit is not human analysis, it's divine insight.

So sometimes when you absolutely don't know what to do, I believe the Holy Spirit can come and tell you what is needed. Sometimes that can happen over a period of time and sometimes that can happen suddenly.

I would like tonight on the basis of 1 and 2 Timothy, to introduce you to four areas of discernment. I'm not sure we're going to get through all of them but we'll have a good go. And tonight, hold on to your straps because tonight we're also going to look at some of the more difficult passages in 1 and 2 Timothy, and some of the more controversial ones, so I need you to stay awake this evening however tired you are, you need to get your brain in gear a little bit this evening.

1. Doctrine and Deception

So the first area of the need for discernment has to do with doctrine and deception.

Sometimes we look at scripture, you think when it's so obvious. Well, unfortunately down through the centuries what we think is obvious hasn't always been so. And there's been so much division in the church, over the years, through basic error and misunderstanding of Scripture. And that is why our discernment as leaders doesn't come through a feeling, or I have my opinion, it must be rooted in the Word of God, and what it says. Now you know that I've been banging on about every week that we've been together doing this series, that the leaders need to be rooted in doctrine, we need to be rooted in the Word of God. So I'm going to read some of these scriptures to you, we've already read them on two or three occasions, because we keep repeating these things but they're very important. I won't spend long on them but it's good for us and while we're reading the scriptures, can you think about how important discernment is for us in leadership.

1 Timothy 1v3-4



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³As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship^{of} from God that is by faith.

In other words, Paul is saying “Timothy, you've really got to know your doctrine because all these other people around you are getting, they're getting taken out.”

1 Timothy 1v5

⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

So we see from this passage that Paul is very concerned that discernment comes from a good knowledge of true doctrine and not getting influenced by other things, and we mentioned this a few weeks ago but if you just look at **1Timothy 1v10**, where he's listing people who are in problems and difficulties, the sexually immoral men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers and look at this and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine.

So as leaders we need to discern; is this sound doctrine, or is this people just getting caught up in myths and genealogies and getting excited about things that are actually going to end with them getting into error?

1 Timothy 4v1-5

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ²through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

Paul often puts doctrine, and deception, spiritual deception, teaching of demons, he often puts them together as he does in verse one. So there are little hints there from Paul to Timothy, and what kind of things can bring deception. He's kind of saying really “beware people who come across as very spiritually minded, but are preaching stuff that's not actually based in Scripture.” It doesn't lead to setting people free, it ends up binding them, and causing legalistic tendencies, so I've always been nervous, because of



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this passage, of people who've come along and forbade that you should get married. There's nothing wrong with being single but that doesn't mean you forbid people getting married, or that you shouldn't eat this and you shouldn't eat that, you should eat this -Okay, there are health issues around but it doesn't make you more spiritual Paul is saying, if you start instructing people what they can or cannot eat in fact, he says in this passage "look, everything given by God is good. We need to be people of thanksgiving I'm not getting distracted into other things."

1 Timothy 6 v 3-5

³ If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound^[b] words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, ⁴ he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, ⁵ and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.

While we're talking about these passages I want you to start to think about how close to home this really is. This is not just an issue for the first century, but it's really an issue that is live on well with us today.

So let's go into 2 Timothy 2 v 14-17

¹⁴ Remind them of these things, and charge them before God^[b] not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,^[c] a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. ¹⁶ But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, ¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene

I wish I could talk to my congregation like Paul talks to Timothy. He doesn't mince his words, I mean he really, really says, "Timothy, this is so important that we don't allow ourselves to get into wrong error.

Final thing from Timothy is 2 Timothy 4v1. This is very powerful.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound^[b] teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,



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Verse 3 is very powerful, particularly for my context here and in the Christian world in the UK and it may well be for yours. Oh my goodness, that's just so 21st century, and it's so powerful in the day in which we live.

Now I haven't got time to go into some of the other verses that I've written down here so I'm just going to give them to you really quickly. Can you please take some time to look at:

1Thessalonians 5v 21 which basically says leaders are called to test everything and hold on to the good. In other words, part of our leadership responsibilities when doctrines and stuff like that come along, various deceptions we are to test things.

1 John 4 v 1-3 -1 John is all about Gnosticism and discerning about people who get caught up into kind of in our lights that have gone off but are not rooted in the Word of God.

2 Corinthians 11 v 3 and 13-14 Actually I'm going to read this to you because it's too powerful to be left out. This is Paul in other churches still dealing with the same kind of issues.

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴ For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.

¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light

So you can see, brothers and sisters, tonight doctrine and deception that go hand in hand, are so in need of our discernment. There are schemes of the enemy, there's deception there's masquerading, there's even people pretending to be angels of light, because they're under demonic deception so basically what Paul is saying is there's an invisible world, and discernment makes the invisible become visible.

You just start to know things. That's why Paul said in Ephesians chapter 6, 'We do not fight against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers.' Leaders need to discern, it's not just people we're dealing with, but actually is principalities and powers. That's the first thing.

2. Discernment and Culture

Here's the second area of discernment that we need, and it has to do with culture. We're living in a world where culture is increasingly Godless and increasingly rooted in today's philosophies, and we as Christians



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are living in the Word of God. And so, whenever the Word of God clashes with culture, we need to be discerning as to whether the issue is, cultural or whether it's creational.

Now let's look at a passage of scripture that I've managed to avoid so far-Here we go.

1Timothy 2 and just to disappoint some of you, we are not going to go into massive details about all of this, we're going to look at that, at another time but 1 Timothy 2 and this one I want to draw out from Paul's discernment to Timothy.

1 Timothy 2v8

⁸ I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling; ⁹ likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰ but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

Now this has been a passage of scripture over the last 20,30,40 years that commentators, theologians have had to really come to grips with because even as I read this passage of Scripture you too, you can see how many countercultural things there are that Paul is touching on. They are really only countercultural to our culture; they were not surprising or even controversial in the days that he was saying them.

It's become so because we live in the days that we live in today. So I haven't got time to talk to you tonight about what on earth Paul means about women being saved through childbearing, and all these other things, and women keeping silent, being quiet etc. We could get into all of that, I've got lots of thoughts about it but the most important thing we need to bring out from tonight is this, whenever Paul starts to talk about things that are clearly cultural in his day, he argues from creation, rather than culture. Leaders need to discern between cultural issues and creational issues. There's a huge pressure today in our society to debunk anything from the Word of God, and some people say well that's just 2000 years old! Who on earth believes people that are old? And it's old doctrine, it's for another time, another season, another culture, obviously we've grown up and we've matured and we've moved forward but what you notice is every time Paul makes an argument, for example, on gender, Okay, this is a passage of scripture about men and women about gender-please notice that he doesn't argue from culture. He argues from creation. In other words, if you go back to Genesis chapter 1,2,3, you will clearly come to the conclusion that men and women are different. Long word we use for this is complementarianism. Men and women are totally equal



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in the sight of God. Men are not more important than women. Women are not more important than men. We are all one in Christ Jesus, there's neither male nor female, etc.

We are totally on the same page, however, men are still different to women. And so women must prophesy for example as women and men must prophesy as men. If a woman starts to prophesy as a man I think why are you doing that? Because God is making men: men and women: women.

We need to hear from women who are like women, and we need to hear from men who are like men. So when it comes to things like, sexuality, we must always argue from a biblical basis of creation. When it comes to things like gender, we must surely argue from a basis of creation and not just culture because culture is always changing, and depending which part of the world and which part of culture and what century you live in, you'll be forever changing your doctrine and Paul is saying that there are principles, universal unchanging principles that are rooted in creation and you must discern what they are.

I would, for example, base my belief on when life begins in the womb, on the Word of God, rather than what modern people have to say about it and the irony with when life begins is that the more scientific advance there is in our culture, the more evidence there is that life in the womb is very, very real, because the more you go scientifically, the more you discover about that.

We argue from creation about euthanasia, when life ends. It's a big topic these days.

We always argue from creation.

So there are unchanging universal truths in the midst of an ever changing godless culture. Which one are we going to go for. I in live, some of us live in an age where even the Christian church is now changing what it believes, just as we've seen in all these warnings from Paul to Timothy, it's still happening today as men or women. Theologians commentators are changing what they believe purely on the basis of 'we must be relevant to our culture, the gospel must be relevant to our culture' and in order to reach people in our culture we must change what we believe, so that we can be culturally acceptable.

So what are the issues that are just as relevant to us today? What are the issues that are creational? I'm not going to tell you, you're going to have to discern as you go along, what those issues are, but I would say this, that if you believe in unchanging truths from the beginning of time, you will inevitably be out of step with the culture in which you live, and isn't Christianity about being different from the culture in which we live, rather than being exactly the same? This is a battleground that has been fought all over the world today. We must find out what these things are and hold dear to them, there's danger abroad, and the danger is compromise. We can't compromise just for the sake of keeping some people happy. Wow. There we go. Sure you can have some interesting discussion in your breakout rooms in a moment.



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I'm just looking at the watch, you've got five minutes left so certainly, we need to be discerning when it comes to guess what? People!

3. Discerning People

So we've done doctrine and deception, we've done culture, and now we're looking at people and how we need to be full of discernment, to know where people are coming from. Timothy a bit naïve when it came to dealing with people, I think. Probably Paul is trying to speak into this. There's so much teaching in Scripture about discerning people. This is not the gift of suspicion okay? This is not "I'm suspicious of people full stop" but let's be very aware. Have you ever found yourself in a conversation with somebody, a Christian I'm talking about now, probably, where you think to yourself there is just something not quite right with this person. Sometimes you're talking to people and you think, you know what, what you're just saying it kind of looks so right on the surface but I don't know, I discern that you're a bit controlling. When it comes to your relationship with people, you're a bit manipulative. When it comes to dealing with people, or sometimes you'll come across people and you think, you know, every time you talk you draw people's attention to yourself, rather than to Jesus, or you come across someone who's very, very gifted on the surface but you just discern there's something in their character. There's something just not quite right. Of course, Jesus said it was by their fruit you will know who are my disciples, and you and I need discernment when it comes to dealing with people, because sometimes people on the surface can seem to be the real deal but there's something not quite right. They say the right things, but they begin to live differently.

That warning bell go on for me when I'm trying to work out whether a person is real or not. Some people can move in signs and wonders and power but there's still seems to be something wrong. Paul was surrounded by people that were moving in signs and wonders and he calls them false apostles, super apostles, they're not the real deal. So we need to be very, very discerning and scripture is full of teaching about this.

Let me just quickly go to one scripture as we are coming to a close.

Again Paul doesn't mince his words and by the way, when you go through Romans as a book, you hardly ever end up in chapter 16, everyone stops beforehand because it's a list of names but there's some fantastic little nuggets.

Romans 16 v 17

¹⁷ I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. ¹⁸ For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites,¹⁹ and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.



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There's a real issue there on you've got to discern, don't take people at face value, discern where they're coming from and look at them every time these people cause division. Every time there's a conversation or something, have you noticed that they cause division? And then in Titus 3v8-11.

Titus 3v8-11

⁸ The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. ⁹ But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. ¹⁰ As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

So, the need to discern people is very, very important and one verse I want to share with you which I've personally found so helpful in pastoral ministry over many, many years is 1 Thessalonians 5 v14

1 Thessalonians 5 v14

¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle,¹⁵ encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

I think it's very important that we discern where people are coming from. In other words, there are people that were pastoring whose root problem is that their idol. Some of them their root problem is that they're faint hearted, and some of them, their root problem is that they're weak. And you and I need to discern people in terms of if I'm dealing with someone who's idle and if they're idle, the best thing you can do for them is to admonish them, or Paul says, if they are faint hearted, the best thing you can do is encourage them, or if they are weak then the best thing you can do is to really help them.

Unfortunately, it was some years before I saw this verse and I see that in the past, I've tended to admonish the faint hearted and I've helped the idle which has not been very, very good. So we need to be discerning of people and where they're coming from. What is the roots of this person's life? Let's not waste our time helping people that don't really want to be helped at all because actually they're quite idle, the best thing they need is to be admonished.

4. Discerning where pressure comes from



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Okay we've run out of time my fourth thing was and you can just make a note of this, discerning where pressure comes from. Leaders do find themselves under pressure and we need to discern where this pressure is coming from. You know sometimes pressure is coming from God and it's a pressure that needs to be embraced because it's good for us and God will teach us things through it. Or some pressure comes from the enemy and we need to discern this isn't from God, this is from the enemy and it needs to be stood against. Then of course, some pressure comes from ourselves, it's self-imposed pressure. It's not from God and it's not from the devil, it's a crazy way of living and our rhythm of life needs to change so that we live without pressure.

Okay. Amen. We have covered an awful lot of ground tonight I do appreciate that. But discernment and leadership is a big, big deal. Let us be people increasingly who discern when doctrine and deception are coming to the fore, when culture is opposing creation, and when we are dealing with people. We really need discernment to know how to discern!

I'd love to pray before I hand it back to Andrew, if we may.

Father, I thank you for your words and I thank you for these wonderful truths and even these warnings which we might be tempted to think well it's all about the first century but the more we dig into this the more we see how relevant Your Word is for us today. Thank you, Your word is not under culture but over culture, it's cross cultural, it works in whatever time of the world's existence we live in or whatever culture we find ourselves to be in. I pray for everyone here this evening, all in different forms of leadership that we will grow in our ability to discern. Thank you You've not left us alone but you've given us true discernment in every area of our lives. We thank you for it. And Lord I pray tonight as we discuss some of these things and as we look into them in the week to come we'll find that you really help us, and we'll even find examples this coming week where we can find your discernment, helping us to discern issues and people and all sorts of things. We ask it for Your glory. Amen. Amen. Amen.



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TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2020

Breakout groups discussion questions

Week 6: THE LEADER AND DISCERNMENT

Feedback

Please share with your group any further thoughts you have had on your calling this past week. Has God highlighted anything, any insights and confirmation of what God is calling you to and what He may not be calling you to?

Discussion questions – week 6

1. Can you give some reasons as to why discernment is so vital today?
2. How does God help us to discern?
Can you give examples where you have been uncertain about something & then received clarity?
3. Do you know your bible well enough to refute doctrinal error, ideas that are merely cultural & where people are being deceived?
If not - doesn't this motivate you to know what God says?
4. Are you naive, suspicious or discerning when dealing with people?

Look again at 1 Thessalonians 5: 14

“And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.”

PRAY for one another, for God's gifts of wisdom and discernment in each person's specific situation.



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