

MAD WORLD

LIVING SANE IN A CRAZY WORLD

Mad World Series

Part 4 - "At The Center Of Our Issues"

Small Group Material

May 21st, 2017

Participant Guide

Bottom Line: *Authority is the expression of humble submission.*

Study Verses: *James 4:4-7, Ephesians 2:14-16, Psalm 118:19-20, James 3:16, John 17:20-23.*

Key Points

- *The more passionate we are about an issue, the more submissive we need to be.*
- *Grace comes to us by submission to the Truth.*
- *Entering the narrow gate is the way towards freedom. When we enter this way, we quit being the center of our life.*
- *The system we're currently using isn't going to solve the issues in our country.*
- *Our heart longs to trust something solid. Unfortunately, we end up trusting things that aren't trustworthy.*
- *Pride yields superiority while humility leads to more authority.*
- *If the enemy can't keep us divided, he will settle for us unifying around anything other than God.*
- *Trying to get God "on our side" often brings out the worst in us.*
- *We need to bring our issues to Christ rather than Christ to our issues.*
- *Our culture has lost the ability to process authority.*
- *The issues in our world are only symptoms of what is really wrong.*

ENCOUNTER

- How is authority commonly viewed in today's culture? What is the relationship most people, including yourself, have with authority?
- What dangers exist when we attempt to get God "on our side" of the issues? How does this mindset influence our relationships with those on the opposite side of the issue?
- What does it look like to bring our issues to Christ rather than Christ to our issues?

FORMATION

- Read James 3:16 and James 4:4-7. How does pride and humility influence our interaction and the way we handle God's truth?
- Read Matthew 7:13-14 and Psalm 118:19-20. What does it mean to enter the narrow gate? What happens to our center when we head in this direction? Why is freedom found in this place?
- Read John 17:20-23 and Ephesians 2:14-16. Where should true unity inside the church be found? Why would the enemy settle for us being unified around an issue rather than God?

EXPRESSION

- Do you believe that Christ can be trusted with His Kingdom here on earth? Why or why not? Does the way you live your life reflect your answer?
- The more passionate we are about an issue, the more submissive we need to be. What issues are you most passionate about? Where is submission needed in your response to this issue and those that it impacts?
- Where have you caught yourself saying, "How can they think or act like that?" in regard to those on the other side of an issue? How can you begin to understand their story and their perspective?