

Message by John Johnson
Coming to Grip with the Reality of Loss and Grief
Eccl. 7:1-4

Questions for Discussion:

1. Pastor John brought us to consider the difference between the busy-ness of our day to day lives, and the near silence the 'house of mourning'. What things occur to you as you think about the 'house of mourning'? Does it seem to you to be a "better" time than the moment of birth? What is Solomon trying to get us to consider?

2. What kind of discussions did you have in your growing-up-years about grief and mourning loss? Was it OK to grieve or not? Has that impacted your thoughts about loss?

What eternal significance, if any, was placed on these end of life issues?

3. Let's think about what we might leave behind us when we leave this 'preliminary stage' of life. What type of influence would you like to leave? How will you communicate your heart's desires for your loved ones? (Letters? Videos? Tapes? Nothing?...)

4. Verse 3 tells us that the heart becomes better after we spend time in the house of mourning. How could this possibly work to make our heart better? If there is a truly positive outcome for us, what would it be? How could we make the best of it in our lives?

5. In what areas/activities in our lives are we spending too much of our time and energy on the superficial and not enough on things of depth? Is it wrong to like fixing up old cars, or fishing, or tennis, or _____? How do we know when we are 'out of our depth' in our lives and just 'floating on the surface'?

How could we recover our sense of priority/purpose in a most Christ-centered way?

6. Extra Credit Assignment: Take some time on your own to write down a few important things that you want your family to know – so they don't have to guess at your own memorial service. ☺

Favorite Hymn/worship song

A life verse from scripture

How you came to walk with the Lord

What things you really enjoyed most about your life

People who impacted you

Favorite ice cream...