The Three Houses

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*NOTICE: The emphasis of our discussion is to see how the Written Word (Bible) and the Spoken Word (Preaching) work together to build up the believer, so when you see WORD in the questions, know it refers to the Scripture and the Sermon.

Recap: *Look back* for evidence of God's word reshaping your heart and life.

1. Does anyone have a testimony to share with the group of how you applied last week's "Respond" section?

Engage: *Look into* the Word of God in light of Sunday's preached sermon.

2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-11 together as a group and discuss your initial observations.

Reflect: *Look deeper* at the preached and written Word.

3. The sermon describes the human body as an 'infected house' passed down from Adam -- in what ways do you see the effects of that inherited brokenness in your own daily life, and how does your faith help you navigate it?

4. Why does Paul describe our present bodies as a "tent" and our future resurrection bodies as a building from God?

5. How should the reality of standing before Christ's judgment seat affect the way Christians live now?

6. The rich man in Luke 16 is described as conscious, able to see and feel, and in torment immediately after death -- how seriously does the reality of hell factor into your conversations with people you care about who do not yet believe?

7. What fears about death or the future does this passage challenge in your own heart?

Respond: *Choose one or two of these applications from Sunday's message to put into practice this week.*

- **Examine your foundation.** Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal whether the things you do for him are built on genuine faith or on performance and appearance. Ask him to purify your motives.
- **Write it down.** If your confidence in Christ is settled, write a brief statement in your own words explaining why you know you are saved. If it is not settled, talk to your group leader, pastor, or a trusted believer this week.
- **Name one person.** Identify one person in your life who does not know Christ. Commit to praying for them by name every day this week, considering the urgency of 2 Corinthians 5:11.
- **Sit with eternity.** Set aside fifteen minutes this week in a quiet place with no distractions. Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 slowly and ask yourself: Am I living in light of eternity or in light of the moment?
- **Express gratitude for the body you have.** As imperfect and groaning as it is, your body is the house God has given you for this season. Thank him for it specifically and ask him how he wants you to steward it.