

Concluding Thoughts

Spiritual relationships bring hope, life, and love to a disciple's walk with God. As we engage with each other in our relationships, we must remember that the goal is to help each other to be like Jesus Christ. We encourage and spur each other on to that goal. Our motivation to live this way is the love and example that were set for us by Jesus himself. By imitating him, we communicate our love for him.

LIFE APPLICATION - PERSONAL EVALUATION

Based on your where you are in your life, answer the following questions:

- Q: Are you consumed with becoming like Christ?

- Q: Does your life revolve around presenting others fully mature in Christ?

- Q: Are you known for giving your best?

- Q: Do you lay your life down for others or do you tend to pull back when tough times come?

- Q: Who are the people that you would like to engage with in these relationships?

- Q: What can you do this week about it?

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GROUNDED

FOUNDATIONS OF DISCIPLING

CLASS 03: RELATIONSHIP PRINCIPLES

A Bible Study

Introductory Thoughts

In previous classes we have seen partnerships, mentoring, friendship, and father/son relationships. We need different types of spiritual relationships at different times in our lives. And yet, as followers of Jesus, we MUST stay focused on the heart of Jesus and his mission.

THE GOAL

Each of us has a unique and yet similar story to tell. When we learned about our need for forgiveness and learned about the cross, it transformed our lives as we made Jesus our Lord.

Colossians 1:21-23

- » **Once you were alienated from God** - It is important to remember who we were before we became disciples of Jesus. It reminds us of our need for Jesus.
- » **He has reconciled you** - It was the work of Jesus that saved us. We have always needed help.
- » **Holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation** - Because of Him we are holy.
- » **If you continue in your faith** - The Bible does not teach that once we have been saved, we will always remain saved. We need to continue to walk as Jesus' disciples to stay right with God.

Colossians 1:24-27

- » **I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church?**
 - Jesus suffered for us, to give us redemption, hope, and bring healing
 - We all still needed a human example to overcome and inspire us
 - Paul sees his sufferings as a way to inspire hope in the church to help others overcome
- » **I have become its servant...to present to you the word of God in its fullness** - Paul viewed his life's work to help other disciples understand the word of God.

Colossians 1:28-29

- » **He is the one we proclaim** - Paul pulls everyone in to this process...it was not just for him to live out.
- » **Admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom** - We do this by exhorting, challenging, encouraging.
 - We learn and grow through life experiences. This makes us better at helping each other.
- » **So that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ** - Christ is the goal of this process.
- » **To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me** - Paul poured himself out to this end for the church.

Mark 7:37

People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said."

- * **We should be incredibly ambitious people**
- * **Our model is Jesus Christ...he did everything well**

EXAMPLES

- » Christians should be model employees/employers
- » Christians should be the best neighbours/students
- » Christians should have a reputation of giving their best to everything they do!

THE MOTIVATION

John 10:11-15

Jesus explains the difference between a good shepherd and a hired hand

- » **The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep** - Sacrificial love defines a good shepherd.
- » **The hired hand does not care for the sheep** - When tough times come he abandons the sheep.

Intimacy: the sheep and the shepherd know each other
Sacrifice: the shepherd willingly lays down his life for the sheep

John 12:23-26

- » **Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed** - Before Jesus' death he shared this parable with his followers. Death is necessary to bring life for others.
- » **Anyone who loves their life will lose it** - Those engrossed in this world's pleasures will not receive eternal life.
- » **Anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life** - The ability to die to this world allows your life to be used to serve others. God rewards this sacrifice with eternal life.
- » **Whoever serves me must follow me** - Jesus challenges his disciples to imitate him.

John 13:34-35

- » **As I have loved you, so you must love one another** - Jesus's expects imitation from his disciples.

John 13:37

- » **Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."** - Peter's responded with the message Jesus taught them. He knew what pleased Jesus.

The Bible does not speak about worship services defining Christianity.
The Bible defines Christianity as pursuing Christ and helping each other to become like him!

John 14:15, 21

- » **If you love me, keep my commands** - Our motivation is tested by our obedience.
- » **Whoever... keeps them is the one who loves me** - Obedience demonstrates our love for God.

JOHN 15:12-13

- » **My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you** - In other words, Jesus is saying that we love him if we love our brothers & sisters the way that he loved us.
- » **Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends** - He ties this back to John 10, 12, and 13 and defines love again.

John 15:16-17

- » **I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit** - Those who embrace these teachings will bear fruit all over in their lives.