

## LIFE APPLICATION - PERSONAL EVALUATION

After reviewing this week's class, it is recommended that you do the personal Bible study in **Appendix A - A Contrast of Hearts**. Every disciple of Jesus needs to be reminded of the blessings of humility and the dangers of pride. This study will help you to deepen your convictions.

**Q:** Do you see the value of having a spiritual partner to help you?

**Q:** Would you describe yourself as someone who is "seeking" and "pursuing" discipling?

**Q:** If not, what is holding you back?

Evaluate (rate yourself) how you believe you are doing with the characteristics of a spiritual heart:

\_\_\_\_ Humility (approachable and teachable)

\_\_\_\_ Expression of gratitude to those who help you

\_\_\_\_ Openness about your life

\_\_\_\_ Serving the people you are in a discipling relationship with

\_\_\_\_ Repentance when something is addressed in you

**Q:** What are you observing and imitating in those around you?

After completing this exercise, sit down with your discipling partner and talk through this. Get their perspective about how you are doing in these areas.

By Dave Pocta

**GROUNDED**

## FOUNDATIONS OF DISCIPLING CLASS 05: PURSUING DISCIPLING

A Bible Study

### Introductory Thoughts

In class #3, "Discipling Relationship Principles," we established the very critical goal and motivation for our spiritual relationships. The **goal** in engaging with one another is Jesus Christ. We are striving to both remind each other about the blessings we have in Christ and help each other to become more like Christ. We also established the **motivation** of these relationships as love. Love for one another should drive our relationships forward.

### The Blessing of Spiritual Partnerships

Having someone in our lives that cares about us spiritually is one of the greatest blessings of being in God's kingdom! We all need to be believed in, reminded of what we have in Christ, encouraged, spurred on, and even sometimes rebuked by a brother or sister.

David expresses his gratitude for this blessing in Psalm 141:5,

*Let a righteous man strike me – that is a kindness;*

*let him rebuke me – that is oil on my head.*

*My head will not refuse it...*

As followers of Jesus, we have a different attitude than the world around us regarding guidance and correction. We welcome it because we know that it helps us spiritually.

In Hosea 11:4 we see that God works through people to lead us and teach us about him,

*I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love.*

### YOUR MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY

**Proverbs 3:5-6** We must start with a heart that trusts God. Learning begins with trust.

**Proverbs 4:23** Our heart is our most precious commodity. We prioritise its health and well-being.

**Proverbs 5:11-14** The heart that avoids correction will lead us to a very unpleasant ending.

**Proverbs 10:8-9** A wise heart takes to instruction. With integrity, everything going on inside is evident.

**Proverbs 16:5** Life is very difficult when our hearts are proud. God punishes those he loves.

**Proverbs 18:12** Pride (protecting ourselves, making excuses, not listening) leads to our downfall.

**Proverbs 18:15** A humble and spiritual person pursues help. They do not idly wait for it to come to them.

**Proverbs 21:2-4** The soil of a spiritual heart is constantly tilled. An unspiritual heart is hard.

**Proverbs 27:19** Our life reflects what is going on with our heart.

\* Christian without a spiritual heart – shallow, legalistic, dry, stale

\* Christian with a spiritual heart – joyful, excited, growing, dynamic

### SEEK & PURSUE

**Matthew 7:7-8** God puts the responsibility of spiritual growth on us. We receive what we seek.

**2 Timothy 2:22** Paul calls Timothy to "flee" and "pursue." Spiritual growth happens with action.

**2 Peter 1:5-9** Spiritual development keeps us moving forward and prevents us from being stale.

### A SPIRITUAL HEART

#### HUMILITY

**Micah 6:8, Isaiah 57:15**

Humility opens the possibility for growth. When we are proud we are unteachable.

#### GRATITUDE

**Luke 17:15-19, Galatians 6:6**

We must always remember that someone that is involved in our lives does so by choosing to love us. Gratitude should be regularly expressed. It helps us to keep our hearts pure.

#### OPENNESS

**1 John 1:7-9, Proverbs 24:16**

Walking in the light means we are real, honest, and vulnerable.

#### SERVING

**Galatians 5:13, 1 Peter 4:10**

We are called to serve one another. Serving connects us relationally to each other.

#### OBSERVATION

**2 Timothy 3:10-11**

Walk with. Watch. Notice. Study. Some of the greatest lessons we learn are from observation.

#### REPENTANCE

**2 Corinthians 7:10-11**

When there are areas that get exposed in our lives that need to change, repent!

### A SPECIAL NOTE TO TEENAGERS

#### Proverbs 23:22-25

Teenagers are often unaware of the incredible resource they have right in front of them!

Learn from your parents! Ask for spiritual help and direction. Ask them to study the Bible with you. Pray together.

### Concluding Thoughts

God richly blesses open, responsive, teachable Christians. We cannot control how people approach us, talk to us, teach us, or confront us. We do, however, have complete control over our own hearts. We must strive to be great learners as we strive to imitate Jesus Christ. When someone sins against us we forgive and move on, once again striving to become more and more like Jesus Christ.

God rewards humility!