

Finding Jesus in Each Other

Sunday February 16, 2020

He Is, We Are (Jn. 10:10; Mat. 16:24)

Do you see "Christlikeness" as a goal of your faith? If not, what is your goal?

"Discipleship is the process of becoming who Jesus would be if He were you." ~ Dallas Willard

What "ways" have you given up in order to follow Jesus? What are some "ways" you know you still need to give up?

The Lifestyle Disconnect (Rom. 12:2)

Why do you think there's a disconnect between what we believe and how we live?

"If Christians around the world were to suddenly renounce their personal agendas, their life goals, and their aspirations, and begin responding in radical obedience to everything God showed them, the world would be turned upside down. How do we know? Because that's what first century Christians did, and the world is still talking about it." ~ Henry Blackaby

How do we get to a place where we are willing to renounce our own way and respond in obedience to what God wants us to do?

The Catechumenate (Gal. 5:9)

How does the breakdown between the belief and lifestyle of Christians negatively impact Church life and potentially destroy its witness in the community?

What was the "catechumenate" that Hippolytus of Rome wrote about in "The Apostolic Tradition"?

Do you think it was wrong for the bishop to reject some newcomers based on their lifestyle? Why?

How was lifestyle taught and modelled to new believers during their 3-year discipleship?

Sharing the Gospel & Ourselves (1 Thess. 2:7-12)

What metaphors does Paul use in 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12 to describe how he cared for the church?

How did Paul both teach and model the way of Jesus to the church at Thessalonica?

What words does Paul use to describe how he "fathered" the church there? What do they mean?

Iron Sharpens Iron (Prov. 27:17)

What people have been instrumental in your coming to faith and in your discipleship?

How did they mentor/disciple you?

Deep Authenticity (Jas. 5:16)

Why is deep vulnerability and authenticity with other Christians important for us to grow in the likeness of Jesus?

"To be loved but not known is comforting but superficial. To be known & not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known & truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God. It is what we need more than anything. It liberates us from pretense, humbles us out of our self-righteousness, & fortifies us for any difficulty life can throw at us."

~ Tim Keller

Why is honesty, openness, & vulnerability about our shortcomings, sin, & shame so scary for us?

Christians should be the most emotionally honest and vulnerable people in the world. Why is it so difficult for us to be truth-tellers?

Take It Home:

1. Identify another trustworthy Christian, who you would be willing to share your life with at a deeper level.
2. If you're already friends with other Christians that you love and respect, take the opportunity to lead into places of vulnerability - this will often give people permission to go deep themselves.
3. Welcome correction into your life as love by not becoming offended when people challenge you.