



Talk it Over

PASTOR LYLE – DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY – ABIDE – 10/5-6/24

KEY SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:28 (NLT)

And now, dear children, **remain** in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame.

Eph 5:8-9 (NLT)

8 For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! 9 For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT)

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control.

There is no law against these things!

1 John 1:5–7 (NLT)

5 This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all.

6 So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.

7 But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

START TALKING

Pastor Lyle talked about milestones as a believer matures from infant to parent, mapping spiritual growth similarly to human development.

In human development, what distinguishes a child from an infant?

Young adult from a child? Compare this with spiritual growth – what distinguishes the stages? (see attached slide for reference)

START DISCUSSING

READ EPHESIANS 5:8-9

GOOD, RIGHT AND TRUE

Darkness to Light. **Can you share the changes in your life as you passed from darkness to light after your salvation?**

Read 1 John 2:28 and Gal. 5:22-23

ABIDING IS FOUNDATIONAL

Living in the five spheres and maturing in our journey of discipleship depends on our abiding in Christ. As the branch receives all it needs from the vine, the abiding believer receives all they need from Jesus – looking to Him in everything. The evidence of this is that we look like Jesus (Fruit of the Spirit - FOS) not me (Deeds of the Flesh - DOF).

Why is it so hard to accept the fact that when the actions of my life are exemplified by the “deeds of the flesh”, I am not abiding?

Discuss the life that seems to fluctuate between the two lists. They struggle with jealousy (DOF) and yet are a kind and loving person (FOS). If we consider abiding to be looking to God for all we need, what difference would abiding make in a struggle with jealousy?

Read 1 John 1:5-7

EVIDENCE OF FELLOWSHIP IS DEMONSTRATED

Much of 1 John is devoted to our fellowship with God and the evidence of that fellowship. Some think of 1 John as an expansion on John 15. John answers the questions “How is abiding demonstrated?”

Verse 5 seems to set up verse 6, “God is light...”

V6 “And those who fellowship with him will not go on living in darkness.”

What does this indicate about maturing as a disciple?

What does a life of fellowship look like?

V7 describes the life of fellowship as “living in the light.”

What is the evidence of our fellowship with God as described in the v7?

NEXT STEPS – SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Since “Abiding” is the key to all growth, how important is assessing your fellowship with God by examining the fruit in your life?

How important is it to you to mature in the Christian life?

The *Discipleship* JOURNEY



