



COVENANT CHURCH

Adulthood: Learning How to Grow Up

Part 4

Pastor Ricky Texada

Sunday June 28, 2020

Main Idea – God is in control in even the most difficult circumstances. Recognize and trust His control. Be honest about your own feelings, but then give them to God in exchange for His peace and comfort.

God is ever present

- So far, 2020 has been a year of turmoil and discouragement.
- But, nothing is unexpected to God. He is ever-present and at work in every situation. **Psalm 100:5 – For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations. (NKJV)**
- Your relationship with God, and with other Christians, are among the most important means through which life's problems are solved. The members of the first Christian congregation had very close relationships with each other. **Acts 2:42 & 46 – And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. . . So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. (NKJV)**
- In times of trouble, depend on your relationships with other believers. You are not alone. God will care for you. He loves you. **Psalm 23:1-4 – The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. (NKJV)**

In times of trouble:

- At first, allow yourself to grieve. Acknowledge and express your feelings. But then – after you have expressed your feelings – make an exchange with God. Release your feelings to Him in exchange for His peace and comfort. **John 14:26 – But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (KJV)**
- Steward the conversation. Take care with how you communicate to other people.

How you communicate is just as important as what you communicate. Don't gossip. **Proverbs 17:4 – An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue. (NKJV).** God's got this. He will bring the resolution.

- **Stand up.** Let God lead you so you can lead others. Model the behavior of good leaders who have led you. Speak truth in love and keep your heart right. Inspire others by communicating with passion. **Psalm 112:1 & 7 – Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who delights greatly in His commandments. . . He will not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. (NKJV).**
- **Be confident that Jesus is the only one who is leading the church.** He is the only one qualified to guide us as we do the work He has given us. **Revelation 5:1-5, 9-10 – And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.” . . . And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.” (NKJV)**

Reflective Questions for Adulthood – Part 4

1. A mature “adult” Christian knows that God is in control even when events seem out of control. What does it feel like when you have the Holy Spirit's comfort? What are the benefits of receiving the Holy Spirit's comfort before taking action – or saying something - during a crisis?
2. During a crisis, Satan loves to spread discord through gossip. How can you resist succumbing to the temptation to gossip? When you hear gossip, what is a good way for you to respond?
3. Jesus is the leader of our church. Do you trust that He is fully in control? If so, what can you do that will serve as a positive inspiration to others during difficult times?