

Care Training: Module 1

SESSION 1: SHALOM

Module 1: Training Outline

- ▶ Session 1 **Foundation for Providing Care** starting with God's care and restoration for us personally in Christ: What is wellness or health?
- ▶ Session 2 **Working through God's Care for us personally** in Christ...Pain and Peace
- ▶ Session 3 **Practicing Providing Care for others** in Christ through helping skills and role play
- ▶ Session 4 **Practicing Providing Care for others** in Christ through the study of how Christ defines shepherding, power and privilege
- ▶ Session 5 **Practicing Providing Care for others** in Christ through learning about the Congregational Care system
- ▶ Session 6 **Practicing Providing Care for others** in Christ through understanding common critical situations at PCC

Training Expectations

- ▶ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:21)
- ▶ Outdo one another in showing honor. (Romans 12:10)

--Keep personal content discussed confidential.

--Be mindful of judgmental thoughts. Always keeping in mind how you are broken and sinful as well. (Luke 6:41-42)

Think Vertical, Horizontal (and Extending Out)



Training Expectations

--Prayerfully make a commitment to use this time as you go through this training to work on allowing Christ to remove the dross (Prov 25:4) and the old (2 Cor. 5) so that you can know Christ more deeply, be renewed, and that you can be a more effective instrument of healing for another.

--Track emotions of anger, sadness, fear, disgust, and shame, i.e. feeling "unloved" and "unsafe."

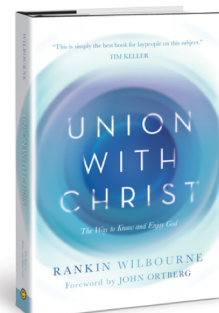
--Note emotions such as enjoyment, love, and surprise.

Question

- ▶ Remember a time you were having a difficult season or were in crisis. What did people around you say that was helpful? Unhelpful?

Union with Christ

- ▶ Chapter 7, "A New Identity: Who Am I?" by Rankin Wilbourne
- ▶ "Against the prevailing mindset of our day—you are what you make of yourself—union with Christ tells you that you can discover your real self only in relation to the One who made you. You are not, you *cannot* be, self-made. Union with Christ tells you that you can only understand who you are in communion with God and others. And that is a wildly countercultural claim."

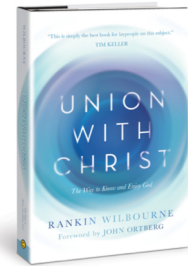


Union with Christ: How do we know we're living out that identity?

► Test 1: Radically Threatening

Examples: Orphan Annie and Jean Valjean

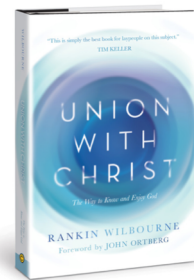
"To embrace our union with Christ may feel like a most formidable attack because it will entail leaving behind the life we've known." (P. 148)



Union with Christ: How do we know we're living out that identity?

► Test 2: Radically Comforting

"Like Pinocchio, we too must decide which voices we will listen to if we want to become who we were made to be. We too must overcome the enslaving curse of thinking that freedom means autonomy and the ability to do whatever we want. Unlike Pinocchio, the gospel tells us we can't save ourselves by being brave and truthful, nor can our consciences set us free. But like Pinocchio, the gospel tells us a new life is made possible by a Father who has loved us into being." (pg. 149)



Union with Christ

- ▶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:16-19

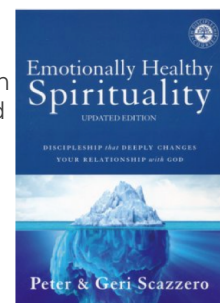
What if we we don't experience the threat or comfort that union with Christ brings?

What if we don't feel what 2 Corinthians
5:16-19 says?

What if we don't feel new or any different
from what we see in non-Christians?

Union with Christ: Obstacle

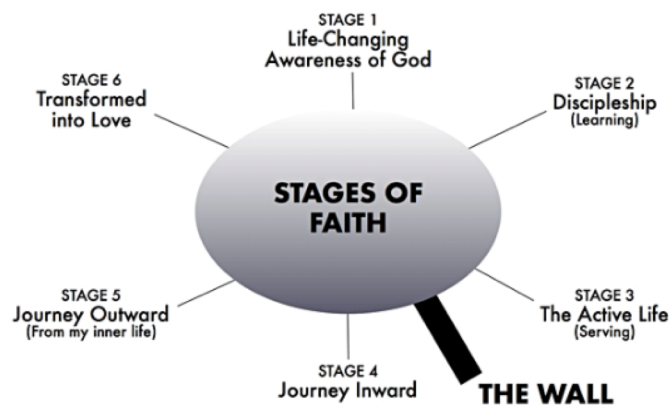
- ▶ Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: *It's impossible to be spiritually mature, while remaining emotionally immature* by Peter Scazzero
- ▶ "...we learned a lesson we would never forget: even though we had been committed Christians for almost twenty years, our ways of relating mirrored much more our family of origin than the way God intended for his new family in Christ." page 29



"Emotionally Unhealthy Spirituality"

- ▶ Using God to run from God
- ▶ Ignoring the emotions of anger, sadness, and fear
- ▶ Dying to the wrong things
- ▶ Denying the past's impact on the present
- ▶ Dividing our lives into "secular" and "sacred" compartments
- ▶ Doing for God instead of being with God
- ▶ Spiritualizing away conflict
- ▶ Covering over brokenness, weakness, and failure
- ▶ Living without limits
- ▶ Judging other people's spiritual journey

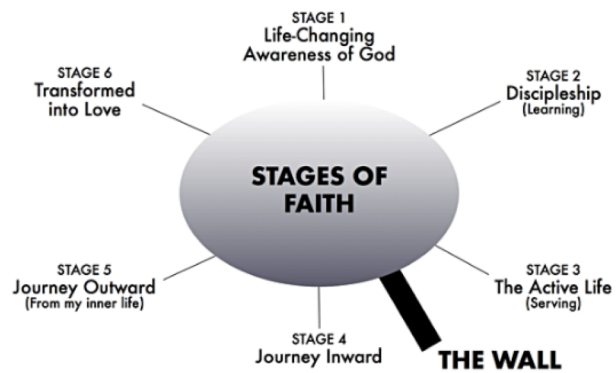
Spiritual Formation



Stages in the Life of Faith by Janet Hagberg and Robert Guelich

Spiritual Formation

- ▶ Where would you place yourself in the Stages of Faith?



The Wall

How do we navigate The Wall purposefully and effectively?

Through seeking Christ, developing our experience of shalom.

Shalom

- ▶ Definition
 - State of completeness
 - Wholeness
 - Flourishing
 - Being fully human the way we are meant to be
- ▶ 237 occurrences in the Old Testament



Shalom

- ▶ Righteousness + Wisdom = Shalom
- ▶ Righteousness vs. Wickedness
- ▶ Wisdom vs. Foolishness (See Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel)

"Throughout the book of Proverbs, righteousness and wisdom are interchangeable terms. One cannot be wise without being righteous. In the same way, folly and wickedness are inextricably intertwined. Foolish behavior is evil. If we understand this, we recognize the ethical dimension of wisdom. But even so, we have not yet arrived at an adequate understanding of wisdom according to the book of Proverbs." (page 11)

The Fear of the Lord is Wisdom by Tremper Longman III

Shalom

- ▶ Why use the term "shalom"?
- ▶ "Relational wisdom" (Ken Sande) and "Emotionally Healthy Spirituality" (Peter Scazzero)
- ▶ Modern secular reduction

Wisdom

Where is wisdom to be found? (Job 28)

Wisdom is precious, rare, and from God alone. Therefore wisdom is always a gift, and therefore inevitably accompanied by humility rather than arrogance and pride. (Nick Nowalk, *Going with the Grain of the Universe*)

Romans 11:33-36; Romans 16:27

Wisdom

- ▶ What is wisdom?
- ▶ “Wisdom is always oriented to creation, always grounded in God’s original design for the world and its future flourishing in his care forever.” (Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction, Craig Bartholomew and Ryan O’Dowd, p. 248)
- ▶ 1 Kings 4:29-34
- ▶ Proverbs 3:19, 8:22-36, Psalm 104:24, Jeremiah 10:12, 51:15
- ▶ Wisdom is God’s blueprint for creation, the design behind the moral and physical order of the universe. Wisdom is “the way the world works.” Wisdom in human beings is conformity to “creation order,” living life in tune with the harmony of creation, with the grain of the universe rather than against it.” (Nowalk)

“Scientists are familiar with the idea that cosmos has within its structure an order that exists. That is to say, most scientists are philosophical realists. They believe their task is not to invent physical laws or to impose structure upon a disordered cosmos, but rather to discern (at least approximately) a structure that exists. The Bible extends that concept of material order to the other dimensions of existence, including the moral, psychological, anthropological, relational and sexual...The idea that this world has order only in its material aspect but not in its moral aspect is illogical. What kind of cosmos would it be, in which the physical sciences were a worthwhile enterprise—because they look for structure that is there to be found—but in which the fields of personal relationships and morality are undifferentiated chaos? This would be a world in which personhood is still ‘a formless void,’ waiting to be given shape by the subjective whims of each person or each succeeding culture. Just as the physical scientist pursues the project of science in the belief that there is order to be discovered (which is why so much of the modern scientific enterprise has roots in Christian soil), so the believer lives on this earth in the conviction that it is finally not a chaotic universe, but one built upon a fundamental underlying and majestic order. Creation Order makes an ontological assertion about the nature of reality.” (Christianity and Sexuality, Christopher Ash, p. 6)

Wisdom

- ▶ Physical order and moral order (see Psalm 19)
- ▶ Sex, work, money, relationships, truth, speech, lifestyle: objective patterns are “there” to be discerned and embraced, not subjectively created or constructed according to our own private desires. Above all else, the wise person know this and seek to align their life with this truth.
- ▶ ***How does the biblical portrayal of wisdom have implications in understanding our own wounds or obstacles in experiencing union with Christ? How does this portrayal of wisdom have implications in how we are to be instruments of healing for others in the Church and of seeing the gospel proclaimed?***

Wisdom

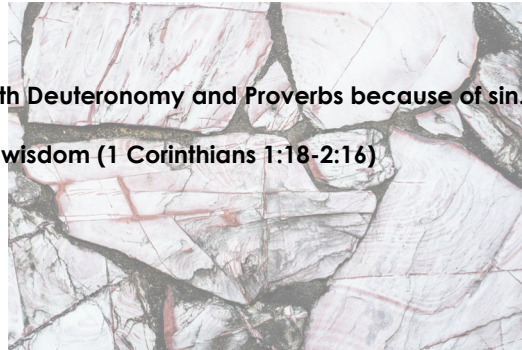
- ▶ What is wisdom? (Proverbs, Deuteronomy, Ecclesiastes, Job, Psalms, Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Gen. 39-50 [Joseph], Daniel)
- ▶ 1) Knowledge and recognition of this moral order that God has placed in the universe
- ▶ 2) The glad embrace and delight in this order, and the submission of the heart to it
- ▶ 3) It is the skill of applying this knowledge in practical ways to every circumstance in life.

Wisdom

Caveat

Need for Job and Ecclesiastes along with Deuteronomy and Proverbs because of sin.

Necessity of the gospel in the pursuit of wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16)



Wisdom : Characteristics of the wise

- ▶ Discover truth and meaning instead of constructing or creating it

"There is something which unites magic and applied science while separating both from the 'wisdom' of earlier ages. For the wise men of old the cardinal problem had been how to conform the soul to reality, and the solution had been knowledge, self-discipline, and virtue. For magic and applied science alike the problem is how to subdue reality to the wishes of men: the solution is a technique; and both, in the practice of this technique, are ready to do things hitherto regarded as disgusting and impious." (*The Abolition of Man*, C.S. Lewis)

-Stewards vs. exploiters (Discover and recognize the world for what it is, how God made it.)

Wisdom: Characteristics of the wise

- ▶ Listen instead of speak
 - To God, to others (see Proverbs and Job)
- ▶ Teachable instead of stubborn
 - Distinction between wise and foolish, the righteous and wicked is in the way they respond to failure and difficulty in their lives.
- ▶ View of all life as relational, not abstract or disconnected.
 - In relation to the Lord of creation

Wisdom: Characteristics of the wise


Hold together the general and the particular, creation and context

-Wisdom is saying or doing the right thing at the right time to/with the right people in the right circumstances.

-What is right is rooted objectively in the way that God made the world, but second, that each subjective situation calls for discernment and mature application to unique circumstances.

-See Proverbs 26:7, 9, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Proverbs 26:3-5, John 11:17-33, Job





“Wisdom refers to a very wide range of desires, behaviors, skills and beliefs—all of which, like the spokes of a wheel, find their hub in the order God has created into our world...Old Testament wisdom provides a bridge between the general order and the particular order for every event and every created object...Indeed, it is precisely because wisdom is attuned to the patterns in creation that it can give guidance in making good decisions in unique circumstances. Whatever the seeming randomness of life before us, wisdom assures us that there is still an order created by God for the very dilemma we face. Wisdom provides freedom within form and life within limits. In other words, wisdom affirms that God has established both an overall, dynamic world order and that this order provides for every moment and every person.”

(Old Testament Wisdom Literature: A Theological Introduction, Bartholomew and O'Dowd, p. 24-28)



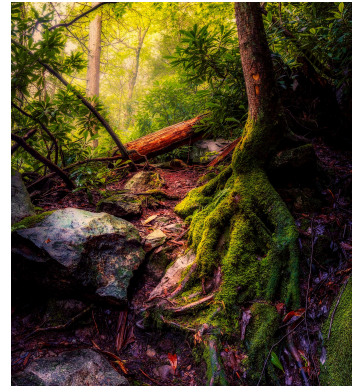
Wisdom

- ▶ How are you in the area of wisdom?
- ▶ How does the biblical portrayal of wisdom have implications in understanding our own wounds or obstacles to experiencing union with Christ? How does this portrayal of wisdom have implications in how we are to be instruments of healing for others in the Church and of seeing the gospel proclaimed?

Wisdom: How to obtain it

- ▶ Fear the Lord
 - Not about your gifts

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2-3)



The thesis that all human knowledge comes back to the question about commitment to God is a statement of penetrating perspicacity...It contains in a nutshell the whole Israelite theory of knowledge...There lies behind the statement an awareness of the fact that the search for knowledge can go wrong, not as a result of individual, erroneous judgments or of mistakes creeping in at different points, but because of one single mistake at the beginning. One becomes competent and expert as far as the orders in life are concerned only if one begins from knowledge about God. To this extent, Israel attributes to the fear of the Lord, to belief in God, a highly important function in respect of human knowledge. She was, in all seriousness, of the opinion that effective knowledge about God is the only thing that puts a man into a right relationship with the objects of his perception, that is enables him to ask questions more pertinently, to take stock of relationships more effectively and generally to have a better awareness of circumstances. Thus it could, for example be said that evil men do not know what is right but that those who seek Yahweh understand all things (Prov 28:5). The opinion is evidently that turning to Yahweh facilitates the difficult distinction between right and wrong. But this was surely not true only of the narrower sphere of moral behavior. Faith does not—as is popularly believed today—hinder knowledge; on the contrary, it is what liberates knowledge, enables it really to come to the point and indicates to it the proper place in the sphere of varied, human activity. In Israel, the intellect never freed itself from or became independent of the foundation of its whole existence, that is its commitment to Yahweh...The statement that the fear of the Lord was the beginning of wisdom was Israel's most special possession." (*Wisdom in Israel*, Gerhard Von Rad, p. 67-68)

Wisdom: How to obtain it

- ▶ Ask for wisdom (Proverbs 2:1-8, James 1:5)
- ▶ Leave everything and follow Jesus, Wisdom of God Himself (Colossians 1-2)
-The Cross is the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1-2)

“Take up your cross, follow Him, and you will be wise.
Ignore him, take him for granted, reject him, and you will
be a fool.” (Nowalk)

Wisdom

- ▶ Do you believe wisdom is “better than gain from silver” or will “profit better than gold”? (Proverbs 3:14, 16:16)



Training Objectives

- ▶ Encourage your seeking of wisdom in order to equip you to increasingly experience shalom personally and in community with the Body of Christ
- ▶ String together the “general and particular, creation and context” as given through Scripture, theology, empirical studies in psychology, practice, and personal experience in order to equip you to encourage others at PCC to seek wisdom and to therefore increasingly grow in the experience of shalom
- ▶ Understand the structures within PCC that are in existence to equip and support PCC congregants to experience shalom

Wisdom: Growing Together

- ▶ Where We Come From
 - 1) We've established that through faith we have union with Christ
 - 2) In what families and backgrounds did God place us? How can this background possibly be motivating and informing us in a way that is in conflict with Christ in us?
 - 3) What are the beliefs and roles we've unknowingly adopted in our lives that are in conflict with Christ in us?

Pain/Peace Cycle

