

REFORMATION BECOMING TRANSFORMATION

As I have been saying and we are all sensing, the Church and Family of Jesus is walking through the process of reformation. Christ is leading the way. His plan is being sovereignly executed. The desire of Jesus is that we join Him in His reformation process, rather than remain locked in the place of fear and an inability to embrace change. This is what it means to be a Disciple of Christ; to truly follow Him rather than practice a set of religious principles that leaves us unmoved and unchanged. We are learning to let go of all things that will not last in order to reach for and receive the things that will remain into eternity.

Matthew 28:16-20 *Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

Mark 16:15-18 *And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*

I. CHRIST RECEIVES ALL AUTHORITY

- A. **Matthew 28:18** *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*
- B. Christ has received all authority from the Father to lead and rule and build the Father’s Kingdom, both in Heaven and in the Earth.
- C. **Authority/Power** (Greek- *exousia*)- *the power of authority or influence and of right or privilege; the power of rule or government; the power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed.*
- D. If all means all then Jesus is communicating a powerful statement here. ALL authority belongs to HIM for the purpose of carrying out the full plans of the Father, both in Heaven and in the Earth. Anyone serving in some level of leadership or authority is simply operating under the extending and entrusted authority from the One who possesses it all. We operate under ‘delegated authority’.

II. THEREFORE, GO IN MY AUTHORITY

- A. **Matthew 28:19** *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
- B. It is an amazing thing to think that God loves us so much that He chooses to employ us in His Kingdom work. It is a humbling thing.
- C. According to the Law of First-Mention, we can see God’s delegated authority started with Adam and Eve in Eden’s garden. God did His part while inviting Adam to do his part. God’s part was the impossible and Adam’s was to steward and multiply the impossible accordingly.

- D. **Genesis 1:27-28** *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*
- E. Let it be said that what seems impossible with man, is always possible with God (**Luke 18:27**). Many times we are confronted with the crossroads of impossible circumstances. Some reject the path of faith because of fear. Some press through the fear, knowing that without faith, they cannot bring joy to the Father.
- F. If the work ahead doesn’t look impossible, it is probably not the Lord path for you. If the road ahead seems difficult and maybe impossible, remember, “All authority has been given to Christ” and He will make it possible.

III. MAKE DISCIPLES

- A. **Matthew 28:19** *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
- B. Christ is always our Master and model for calling others into Himself. Just as Christ has called us to follow and obey Him, we too are to call others into Christ.
- C. This is one of the clearest reforming and restructuring values for us as a praying family. We are seeking the Lord for His paradigm of making disciples in this Church community. Making disciples is to be intentional and planned but also organic in our relationships.
- D. We are not making disciples of ourselves, of our ministry structure, of a movement, but of Christ. We are not to call others to follow us but to follow Christ.
- E. Water baptism symbolizes the Believer’s total trust, surrender, and reliance on the Lord Jesus Christ, as well as a commitment to live obediently to Him. It also expresses unity with all the saints, including every person in all nations who is a member of the Body of Christ. We are all one in Christ Jesus as one family.
- F. The practice of water-baptism is mostly about entering into a new identity. It is our new identity by and through the Holy Spirit. Jesus describes the new identity as that of the name or character or lifestyle of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. (*baptized into or adopted into*)
- G. The Name of God expresses the nature of God. Each name or title of God relates to different expressions of His nature and character.
- H. I believe that at the heart of the reformation of the Church is the Discipling of His Church as the way that He will disciple the nations.
- I. We are not being brought into conformation as much as that of a transformation. Conformation is to adopt the rules and practices of the dominating culture around us. Transformation is more about becoming the culture that is within us.
- J. **Romans 12:1-2** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*
- K. Our Heavenly Father desire that His Church in the earth looks more like the culture of His Kingdom than the kingdoms and practices of this world.
- L. **John 3:6** *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

IV. LOVING OBEDIENCE

- A. **Matthew 28:20** *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*
- B. **Observe (Greek- tēreō)** *to attend to carefully, take care of; hold fast; to guard; maintain; follow, obey*
- C. If our work is not done in love, it will not remain. It’s not love unless it is done in obedience to Christ. This is the essence of being a Disciple of Christ.
- D. We want to reproduce the nature, the character, and the heart of Christ. We will always take who we are wherever we go. We will always reproduce who we are. We can only offer to others the history and experience that we have walked in. As we follow Christ faithfully, we will show others what is possible in the grace of Christ.
- E. Be a man or woman after God’s heart by keeping your hand on the plow and heart on the altar of the Lord. This is our responsibility for the next generation.
- F. We are given only one generation of time to impact and pass on a spiritual legacy. Your faithfulness in God paves a highway of possibility for the next generation. Anyone can sin and walk in compromise. The next generation needs to see that it’s possible to walk in righteousness and holiness in the grace of God.