

Life-on-Life: The Art of Personal Ministry
Foundations 101

Recommended Text – *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hand* by Paul Tripp

- A. 9/13/20 Class 1 – How Can We Help Others? (*Instruments* Video #1)
- B. 9/20/20 Class 2 – Our Heart Influences our Action (*Instruments...* Chapter 2)
- C. 9/27/20 Class 3 – Idolatry (*Instruments* Video #3)
- D. 10/4/20 Class 4 – Love, Know, Speak, Do (*Instruments* Video #4)
- E. 10/11/20 Class 5 – Entry Gates & Incarnation (*Instruments* Video #5)
- F. 10/18/20 Class 6 – Life-on-Life – What is it and Why is it needed in the Church?
- G. 10/25/20 Class 7 – Life-on-Life – Biblical Sufficiency vs. Other Perspectives
- H. 11/1/20 Class 8 – Life-on-Life – Step One: Build Involvement
- I. 11/8/20 Class 9 – Life-on-Life – Step Two: Give Hope
- J. 11/15/20 Class 10 – Life-on-Life – Step Three: Gather Data
- K. 11/22/20 Class 11 – Life-on-Life – Step Four: Interpret Problems Biblically
- L. 12/6/20 Class 12 – Life-on-Life – Step Five: Provide Biblical Instruction
- M. 12/13/20 Class 13 – Life-on-Life – Step Six: Assign Suitable Homework
- N. 12/20/20 Class 14 – Life-on-Life: **VIDEO** of a Life-on-Life Personal Ministry Meeting

Life on Life: The Art of Personal Ministry (101)
Class Two - September 20, 2020
Our Heart Controls Our Action - Instruments... Chapter 2

*What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart and this defiles a person. **Matt. 15:18***

1. Share your verse from last week with those at your table. Heb. 3:13.
 The Holy Spirit calls us alongside one another daily to encourage each other so we will not be hardened by sin's deceptiveness.
2. Paul Tripp quote: ***We do what we do because we want what we want, and we want what we want because we believe what we believe.***
3. **Whatever controls the heart controls the behaviors.** What you set your affections on, what your desires are, what you really worship from the heart – these control your behavior. **Behavior grows out of our heart, and not out of our circumstances.**
4. Behaviors are like a gauge on the dashboard of your life. Since *what we do proceeds from our hearts*, what we **DO** tells us what is really going on inside (Matthew 15:10-20). By the way, remember the context of this teaching. It comes from Matt. 15:1-10 and the difference between what people **say** (e.g., about the Lord) and what they actually **do**.
5. Various views of psychological anthropology – your view of how people function
 - a. Dualistic view – Interior and exterior (spirit/soul and the body) (Tripp/Lane)
The heart is what needs to change.
 - b. Medical view – We are fundamentally physical entities, and our behaviors are ultimately physically generated – improvement is medically generated
 - c. Tripartite – We are body, soul and spirit (e.g., Heb. 4:12 // 1 Thess. 5:23) (This is my view of what the Bible teaches, and we will see this later in the course.)
6. Immature thinking = what happens **outside** me controls my responses.

A (EVENT)	→	B (RESPONSE)
Child or spouse speaks disrespectfully		So I yell at them to put them in their place
My company faces an uncertain future		So I get anxious and fearful and can't sleep
My body hurts from injury or illness		So I withdraw and move → despair
I have not found a spouse yet		So I hate myself or live in fantasy

What happens outside us *impacts or influences* us, but *does not control* our responses. Our responses are determined **not by circumstances** but by my inside convictions: What does **my heart really believe**? What do **I really hold as my guiding value**?

A (EVENT) → **B (WHAT DO I BELIEVE?)** → **C (RESPONSE)**
 My spouse is self-centered I deserve to be loved I withdraw from/judge them

Examples of how what I believe controls me: Matthew 14:22-33 / Luke 22:54-62

- What did Peter believe when he first stepped out of the boat?
 - What did Peter believe a few seconds later?
 - What did Peter believe when he denied the Lord?
 - What did Peter believe in Acts 4:8-22 when he spoke with the Council?
7. **Luke 6:43-45** *For there is no good tree that produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand... We have root and we have fruit. The root causes the fruit. How I behave is the result of what I think in my heart.*
 8. **Helping people requires more than pointing out helpful/proper behavior.** It involves helping them see what they value now, and guiding them to treasuring Christ/His truth.
 9. **Romans 1:25** *They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature. What you treasure and think about becomes your practical object of worship. Example: Avoiding illness and valuing freedom from oppression are both good things, right? But if I sin when I do not get it, I have turned this legitimate desire into an idol.*
 10. If I am aggressive, my tendency to control when I don't see people behave as they should, shows not only a commitment to what is right but a self-righteous demand that others comply. My idol, in that case, might be that people align with something good.
 11. **Matthew 6:19-24** – Worship – Does that refer to a formal activity at 9am or 11am every Sunday with people we know? Jesus tells us worship is an identity before it is an activity. What you treasure is your object of worship.
 12. **Hebrews 4:12-13** – *The word of God is living, active and sharper than any two-edged sword and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joint and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but everything is laid bare before the eyes of him with whom we have to do. God wants our hearts disclosed so that we can see what He is changing in us.*
 13. **Colossians 3:5** *Consider the members of your earthly body dead to ... (idolatry).* What controls the heart controls behavior. Worship isn't what we do with a bunch of people at church. It is what we set our heart on and show through our behavior.

Discussion and Homework

1. (D) Believers are called alongside each other day-by-day to help one another with our blindness (Heb. 3:13-14). How are you currently engaged in both sides of that?
2. (D) If we “*do what we do because we want what we want, and we want what we want because we believe what we believe,*” what elements will have to be present in anyone’s effort at helping people grow and change into Christlikeness?
3. (D) You are a parent of a 9 year old son who explains that he broke the spokes on his 7 year old brother’s bike because his brother rode his bike without permission. What would you be tempted to do that will not reflect Christ and will not help either boy grow? What would elements of good parenting response include?
4. (H) Memorize Matt. 15:18 (memory verse) at the top of first page in this week’s lesson.
5. (H) Read chapters 3-4 in *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hand* and jot one takeaway from each chapter onto the last page of the chapter in the white space.
6. (H) Be prepared to discuss in your circle an instance this coming week when the “WHY” behind the “WHAT” (*the heart behind the behavior*) showed itself as important.