

## Life on Life: The Art of Personal Ministry (101)

Class One - September 13, 2020

### How Can We Help Others? *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* Video One

*But encourage one another day after day as long as it is still called "today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **Hebrews 3:13***

1. Life on Life Examples:
  - a. [Women] You and Allison are meeting for coffee. She shares how she has lost her motivation for life and frequently feels discouraged.
  - b. [Men] You are meeting with Brad for lunch. He shares that his wife is driving him crazy and he is working longer hours to avoid spending too much time with her.
  - c. Your friend was just diagnosed with cancer. She tells you she thinks the Lord is judging her for the way she lived as a young adult.
  - d. During community group, Bill and Susan share with the group, but during their story, Bill harshly makes fun of Susan in front of the group.
  
2. **Who** is this class for? *Every believer in Christ.* We are called to live the Christian life in community with one another. We need each other because every one of us goes through periods of suffering or struggles with sin.  
*"All of us are both people in need of help and people who have been positioned by God to provide his help to others." (Paul Tripp)*  
*"The Bible teaches that transformation takes place as our hearts are changed and our minds are renewed by the Holy Spirit. And the two instruments that the Holy Spirit uses are the Word of God and the people of God." (Paul Tripp)*
  
3. **What** does this class hope to accomplish? To equip us to engage in authentic fellowship and live in the kind of community the Bible describes is our hope.
  
4. **How** the class is designed:
  - a. Lecture / Discussion / Video. The videos will include part of the material from Paul Tripp's *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* and a live counseling video.
  - b. Homework
  - c. We encourage all of you to read Paul Tripp's book, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*
  
5. This course will introduce some new concepts, but much of it may be very familiar teaching presented in a more useful way. It really is Discipleship 101 – *How do people change to be more like Christ and how can we be used to help?*

6. Jesus left an assignment to all Christians (see Matthew 28:18-20). Please take a minute to write in your own words a description/definition of “making disciples.”

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7. Two lies that Bible believing Christians face:
- a. Autonomy – I have the right to live the way I want to live
    - i. Have you ever said something nasty to your spouse because you became angry? If so, you’re not ignorant that it’s wrong. At the moment, you don’t care that it is wrong. You feel anger and want to express it.
    - ii. Men who visit a website they know is wrong: At the moment, you don’t care. You want put yourself on the throne and write your own law.
  - b. Self-sufficiency – I have everything I need inside of myself to be what I’m supposed to be and do what I am supposed to do
    - Have you ever gotten defensive when a sister or brother points out a sin?
    - Do you convince yourself that you know yourself better than they do?
  - c. Fruit of these two is a lifestyle of isolation and self-protection
    - These are enemies of grace and the community God has called us to
8. We are called to live in community
- a. 59 one-another’s; some are included below
  - b. “Carry each other’s burdens...” (Galatians 6:2)
  - c. “...Be patient, bearing with one another in love.” (Ephesians 4:2)
  - d. “Be kind and compassionate to one another...” (Ephesians 4:32)
  - e. “Teach...[one another]” (Colossians 3:16)
  - f. “...Admonish one another” (Colossians 3:16)
  - g. “...Build each other up...” (I Thessalonians 5:11)
  - h. “Encourage one another daily...” (Hebrews 3:13;10:35) (I Thessalonians 4:18)
  - i. “...Spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” (Hebrews 10:24)
  - j. “Confess your sins to each other...” (James 5:16)
  - k. “...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another.” (Colossians 3:13)
  - l. “...Pray for each other.” (James 5:16)
9. We all have different maturity levels, expertise, and skills - as it should be in the body of Christ. This course attempts to help the whole church grow in **redemptive friendships**. We take the gospel to each other because we are blind to our own sin. While

justification happens in a moment, sanctification happens over a lifetime. We seek to help each other understand and pursue what we call “a *sanctification agenda*.”

- a. Colossians 1:28-29 “*We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.*”
- b. Colossians 3:16 “*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*”

10. God wants us to grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18), become like Christ (1 Cor. 11:1) and reflect His image (Romans 8:29). **BIG IDEA FOR THIS COURSE.**

11. Our class goal is to help the **whole church** grow more skilled at helping each other grow – what is called “sanctification” (Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 1:28-29).

We participate in the sanctification of others

“Sanctification [of each individual] is a community project” (Paul Tripp)

### START VIDEO

12. ***We minister to people according to what we believe makes them function as they do.***

The pattern this course follows is: Creation → Fall → Redemption.

13. Genesis 1:26-27 - **Before the fall, we were already dependent. We were designed as:**

- a. Revelation Receivers
- b. Interpreters
- c. Worshipers

14. Genesis 3:1-7 – Sin complicates things. A “new counselor” says things opposed to what God said. We are confused because what we want competes with our worship of God.

15. Hebrews 3:12-13 – Because of the fall, the lens through which we look at our world is askew. We see through foolish, rebellious, falsely independent, blind eyes. **What does God say here he is going to use to rescue us from ourselves?**

16. The “encouragement” we offer (vs. 13) is interesting. “Paraclete” here (*one called alongside*) is a very elastic word. It is one of the names of the Holy Spirit. It is also a word that can mean **confront, rebuke, comfort, support, encourage.**

17. Lesson One asks three important questions.
  - a. Why do people do what they do? (*Biblical theology of human motivation*)
  - b. How does real, lasting change occur in our life? (*Biblical theology of change*)
  - c. How can I become an instrument of change for another person? (*Biblical methods*)
  
18. Summary: Why do you need help and why do we all?
  1. Creation (Genesis 1:26-28) – *I was created dependent*
  2. Fall (Genesis 3:1-7) – *I am confused because I now listen to other voices*
  3. Redemption (Hebrews 3:12-13) – *God uses others in my life and me in their life*

### **Discussion and Homework**

1. (D) Before our fall into sin, people were dependent. After the fall, we were deceived. How do those two facts make it apparent that we likely need input from others?
  
2. (D) Pretend you are 40 years old and you struggle with anxiety and have a hard time trusting the Lord. What might that say about your possible need for outside input?
  
3. (D) If you had a problem with anger, anxiety or depression or a tendency to self-isolate, and you agreed you were dependent and deceived, why might God's call to "progressive sanctification" make you more willing to look for help from within the Body of Christ?
  
4. (H) Please memorize the verse at the top of the first page in this lesson, Heb. 3:13.
  
5. (H) Read chapters 1-4 in *Instruments in the Hands of the Redeemer*.

(H) Find someone this week to ask, "*When has paying attention to someone's advice or correction helped you change directions in a good way?*"