

It's Not Suppose To Be This Way

Pastor Jeff Loven

3.7.2021

**READ 1 PETER 4:7**

1. Why does the “end of all things” being near provide a source of hope?
2. Because the end of all things is near, we are to be alert and sober-minded.
  - What does it mean to be alert?
  - What does it mean to be sober-minded?
  - Peter mentions being “sober-minded” three times in this letter. (1:13, here, 5:8)
  - What are the three situations mentioned, and how are they the same? Different?
4. Pastor Jeff said prayer is our “relational connection to God.”
  - How does this look in your life?
5. Look at Matt 14:23, Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16, 6:12, 9:18, 11:1
  - What is the common theme?
  - If Jesus felt it was necessary, why do we neglect it?
6. Pastor Jeff stated we cannot have intimacy with God without intimacy in prayer. He mentioned asking ourselves these questions:
  - Does God feel distant?
  - Is your “prayer experience” unfulfilling?
7. Our relational connection to God is either built up or blocked by our level of self-control.
  - What external issues can block our connection?
  - What internal issues can do the same?
8. Pastor Jeff quoted Andy Stanley as asking the question: is there a tension that deserves my attention? What does this mean? How does it apply to your life? Is there? (a tension...)

**READ 1 PETER 4:8**

9. Jeff defined “constant love” as tangible acts of care done with persistent effort.
  - Describe what this would look like in your workplace. In your home? Neighborhood?
10. Jeff said, “We must allow ourselves to be loved well above all else if we are to love well above all else.”
  - What does this mean?
  - How does this happen?
11. Jesus is our ultimate example of loving someone well.
  - How did He demonstrate this?
  - How can we do the same? Do we?

**READ 1 PETER 4:9**

12. Loving well is extending hospitality to all without complaining.
  - Bonus: What were the two Greek words that comprised the answer above?
  - How is hospitality different today from Peter’s day?
  - How can we make it more like Peter’s day in our church? In our attitudes?
13. Jeff left us with the admonition to: “Love well.”

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What can we do to make a difference this week? Will you do it?

14. Feedback indicated that the fill-in-the-blank questions were a problem. We have eliminated them and hope that this new format will provide more room for discussion and thought. Keep those cards and letters coming!