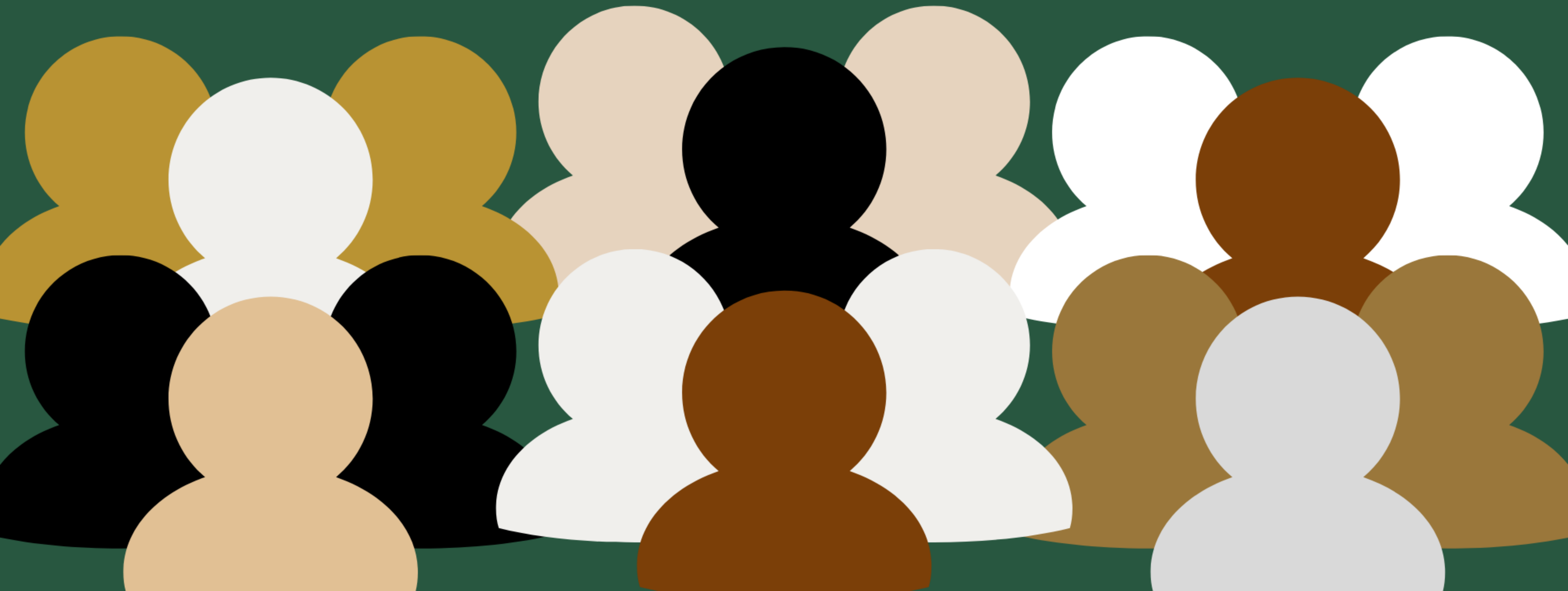


# A RENEWED PEOPLE



“Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am?”

John 14v9 (ESV)

Disciples of Jesus arrange their lives around three things:

Presence (being with Jesus)

Transformation (becoming like Jesus)

Mission (doing the things that Jesus did)

How can a person *be with Jesus* through the Holy Spirit, in a deepening relationship with him?

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. *Abide* in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it *abides* in the vine, neither can you, unless you *abide* in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever *abides* in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

If anyone does not *abide* in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you *abide* in me, and my words *abide* in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. *Abide* in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will *abide* in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and *abide* in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 15v1-11 (ESV)

We cultivate a relationship with God through sustained presence with him by *remaining in Jesus*.

God is a person and, as such, can be cultivated as any person can. It is inherent in personality to be able to know another personality, but full knowledge of one's personality by another cannot be achieved by one encounter.

A.W. Tozer



## **Some obstacles to *being with Jesus*:**

Busyness

Information

Fear

Unconfessed sin

Apathy and Indifference

We can, through faith and grace, become like Christ by practicing the types of activities he engaged in, by arranging our whole lives around the activities he himself practiced in order to remain constantly at home in the fellowship of his Father.

Dallas Willard

An abiding life is a learned life.

Spiritual practices of presence (being with Jesus):

Solitude

Spiritual practices of presence (being with Jesus):

Solitude - Silence

Spiritual practices of presence (being with Jesus):

Solitude - Silence - Sabbath

Spiritual practices of presence (being with Jesus):

Solitude - Silence - Sabbath - Scripture

Spiritual practices of presence (being with Jesus):

Solitude - Silence - Sabbath - Scripture - Prayer



Do not these words of the Savior reveal what you have perhaps often sought in vain to know, how it is that the rest you at times enjoy is so often lost? It must have been this: you had not understood how entire surrender to Jesus is the secret of perfect rest. Giving up one's whole life to him, for him alone to rule and order; picking up his yoke and submitting to be led and taught, to learn from him; abiding in him, to be and do only what he wills - these are the conditions of discipleship, without which there can be no thought of maintaining the rest that was bestowed on first coming to Christ. The rest is in Christ and not something he gives apart from himself, and so it is only in having him that the rest can really be kept and enjoyed.

Andrew Murry