

Unrecognizable

Session 3 – Discipleship; the Key to Your Makeover

I. Introduction Review

A. 1 Peter 2:9 (KJV) – *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light*

B. Session 1 – Understanding the Distinction

1. When we are born again, we are a unique race, living on earth
2. We are in this world but citizens of the Kingdom of heaven
3. As citizens of Heaven, we do not live our lives the same as those who are citizens of earth.
4. There is a DISTINCT difference in everything about our life.
5. The DISTINCTION is always GOOD

C. Session 2 – Living the Distinct Life

1. The example of Israel – living a distinct life through the Exodus
2. When God speaks of His children, he uses terms like, blessed, redeemed, forgiven, chosen, overcomer, success, righteous
3. Curse words – lack, poverty, weakness, sickness, failure
4. Law of Distinction = What is common for others will not be common for you
5. You are the EXCEPTION to the rule – Daniel, Paul, others.

II. Releasing The Distinct Life

A. There are many transforming moments in the life of the Christian

1. We are transformed spiritually the moment we get saved
2. We are transformed gradually and progressively after we are saved.
3. The transformation level achieved will be determined by the dedication of ourselves to knowing God on a higher level.
4. Some stop at base 1 Salvation – knowing Jesus as Savior

5. Others move from step to step – knowing Jesus as – savior, healer, deliverer, etc.
6. Transformation is connected to KNOWING him
7. To the Degree that you KNOW HIM – you will be transformed
8. To the Degree that you fail to know him, – you will remain the same.
9. DISCIPLESHIP IS THE KEY

B. Discipleship is the Key to Continued Transformation

1. Whenever there is an area of my life that needs to be made over – there is a need for discipleship.
2. **Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)** – ¹⁹*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe **all things** whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*

Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT) – ¹⁹ *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,^[a] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

3. **Disciple =**
 - a. A personal follower of Jesus during his lifetime on earth
 - b. The disciples of Jesus had to invest everything that they had
 - c. A follower, a student,
 - d. Gr = a learner = *to increase one's knowledge – to hear, to be informed – to learn by use and practice*
 - e. Disciples – learned – by listening and observing everything that Jesus said and did –then putting into practice in their own lives.
4. **Discipleship = to qualify as a disciple one must;**
 - a. Continue increasing in knowledge

- b. Continue to be a hearer of the Word – increasing in *revelation* – *understanding*
- c. Be a doer – *putting into practice the things they have heard*

5. You can be **SAVED** and not be a **DISCIPLE**

- a. Carnal Christians
- b. **1 Corinthians 3:1 (KJV)** – And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.
- c. **Carnal – Def –gr/ fleshy or meaty**
*Still dominated by the human nature –
 While the Spirit has been transformed – They are still
 dominated over and controlled by the nature of this world.*

- **Note:** *These were SAVED/BORN AGAIN people who had an entry level position in Christ, but had never matured through the discipleship process –*
- **Spiritual vs Carnal**
- **A spiritual person is controlled by the Spirit within**
- **A Carnal person is still controlled by the Flesh without**
- **Babes in Christ –**

6. **1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NIV)** – ¹Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?

- a. Saved people who are not living the **DISTINCT** life
- b. Saved people who are still acting like the world
- c. Saved people who are not acting in a spiritual manner
- d. **SAVED PEOPLE!** *Discipleship will move them forward into the Distinct life –*

- e. **The Corinthian Church** = the most non-spiritual church in the New testament.
- i. They were people who never grew up
 - ii. Babes in Christ
 - iii. They continued to sin
 - iv. They couldn't handle strong teaching
 - v. They were addicted to milk – basic teaching
 - vi. They were filled with envy, strife and divisions
 - vii. The Amplified Bible says they walked as "mere men," as sinners. This gives us our first clue to understanding the carnal Christian and why there is no difference between their attitudes and actions and those of the world.
 - viii. The Carnal Christian is under the control of the nature of the flesh = NO TRANSFORMATION
 - ix. TWO ways – to remain a babe in Christ
 - Never grow up
 - Regress back to the point of a child.
 - x. These people NEVER GREW UP
 - xi. They didn't listen to what had been taught
 - xii. Magnified personality above the Word
 - xiii. Magnified experience above the Word
 - xiv. They became the most carnal church in the New Testament.
 - xv. THEY NEEDED TO MOVE FORWARD
 - xvi. THEY NEEDED TO GROW AND MATURE
 - xvii. THEY NEEDED A MAKEOVER – TRANSFORMATION
 - xviii. THEY NEEDED REAL DISCIPLESHIP

7. **Discipleship begins with a choice**

- a. The choice to become a disciple
- b. Kingdom Entry was FREE – The gift of God
- c. Discipleship comes with a price –

Luke 9:23 (KJV) – *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

Luke 9:23 (NIV) – *Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.*

Bill Hybels – Founder of the seeker sensitive movement “*We have made converts but we have not made disciples*”

- d. Not everyone will CHOOSE to be discipled
- e. Everyone isn’t going to GROW/MATURE
- f. Everyone isn’t going to get excited about the Word of God
- g. Everyone doesn’t have the desire to increase in understanding.
- h. Some Do! We focus on those who do!
 - **Do you want to experience MAKEOVER?**
 - **Do you want to experience REAL TRANSFORMATION**
 - **Do you want to be UN-RECOGNIZABLE at the end of 2020**
 - **REAL QUESTION? Are you willing to pay the price?**
- i. YOU NEVER STAND STILL in the things of God = You are either advancing Or regressing – the Choice is yours
- j. Babies
 - i. Cannot handle solid food = must have milk
There is a problem with people who must have milk
There is a problem with people who must STAY on milk
 - ii. Don’t have a long attention span
They must be entertained a lot
You must have the meat of the Word of God to grow
Meat = the breaking out of the Word of God.
They exalt other things above the teaching of the Word of God.
 - iii. Babies deal with sins of the thoughts: *Envy, jealousies, strife*

- iv. Babies look and act like an unbeliever
Hang around unbelievers, look like, talk like, respond like mere men. OPPOSITE OF THE DISTINCT LIFE.
- v. **Ephesians 5:14 (KJV)** – *Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*
Babies/Carnal Christians are asleep among the dead.

III. **John 15:1-8 (KJV)** – ¹*I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*²*Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*³*Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*⁴***Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.***⁵*I am the vine, ye are the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:** for without me ye can do nothing.*⁶*If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*⁷***If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.***⁸*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples*

John 16:16 (KJV) – *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

A. Two Keys for Fruit Bearing

1. Abide in Christ
2. Abide in the Word
3. Abide Def = to remain, to sojourn – not to depart, kept continually – to continue in, to dwell, tarry

4. Abide is a living term

- a. Non-living things may last for centuries without care
- b. Living things require continued care
- c. We are living beings/natural and spiritual
- d. The Word is Living
- e. For my spiritual life to excel, I must be nourishing the things of the Spirit.

B. Discipleship is learning to abide in Christ and to abide in His Covenant Word –

1. Then – whatsoever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it you.
2. This is the Distinct Life!