

MOTHERS DAY HANDOUT: Diffusing The Fragrance of Christ

*When We Water Down Gods Word...Or Soak Up Too Much of Worlds Ideas or Actions We Will NOT Diffuse the Aroma of Christ to the World! **READ 2-Cor 2:14-16***

- The Word “Diffuses” Means that God has Chosen Us to Spread or Diffuse the Words and Actions of Christ Wherever We Go. God Wants Every Christian to be Saturated with His Character so that No Matter What Situation We Face We Will Diffuse The Character of Christ! **Read Galatians 2:20**

Paul is Not saying, “I Live in a Christ-like Way,” or, “I Glorify Christ Through My Behavior.” Paul is Saying is, “Christ...Lives In Me.” Christ Lives in His Believers.

- Diffusing the Sweet Aroma of Jesus to Our World Requires We are Filled with Christ.

KEY: A Diffuser Cannot Give Off Different Aromas...Because there is Only One Thing in the Bottle...Therefore What it Diffuses is Consistent!

- God Desires *That We Will Be So Filled with God the Holy Spirit that in Every Situation We Face... We Will Emit... Diffuse Only One Thing...Jesus Christ to the World!*

Ways We are to “Diffuse” the Fragrance of Christ?

Be Likeminded with Jesus. A Diffuser Dispenses Only One Thing. That One Thing for Every Christian Believer has to be to Diffuse the Truth of God’s Word in Both Our Actions and Words.

- 1 Cor. 2:16, *“We Have the Mind of Christ.”* Having the Mind of Christ Means Sharing that Which Every Believer Possesses... *The Plan, Purpose, and Perspective of Christ.*

We are to Be Authentic. Our Words & Deeds Must Be Consistent With the Bible. **3 Key Principles To Grasp If You Want To Practice Authentic Christianity**

One: Start with an Accurate Picture of God. *Every One of us has an image of God in our minds. Whatever your Picture, here’s how it impacts your everyday faith and Impacts Authentic Christianity:*

- If you think God is an Angry Deity, Waiting to Punish you? You’re likely working hard to tiptoe around Him and appease His anger.
- In your mind, if God is a Cosmic Scorekeeper...You probably assume you’ll never measure up, hoping that in the end your good choices will outweigh your bad ones.

If You See God as an Impersonal, Invisible Force inside Everything and Possibly Every Person...And that through Him We Become One with the Universe...*You’re Just Seeking a Formula, Technique or a Method to Develop Oneness with the Cosmos.*

However...If You See God as a Loving Father...*One who Wants to Know You Personally So He can Love, Direct and Guide You, and Give You the Very Best...Then You’re Probably Experiencing Peace and Contentment in Your Faith.*

- *1 John 3:1a See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!*

Two: Authentic Christianity is Not Built on Rules or Religion...Of course, as a Believer, We are to Honor God’s Principles and Live in Obedience. But the Question is whether You’re Motivated by an Effort to Fend Off an Angry Deity or by Love for the Father.

Jesus said in John 10: 37-38, *“If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me [ie: my words]; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.”*

Three: An Authentic Christian, Values Relationships. In Romans 12 We are Given the Relational, Grace-Based Pathway to True Spirituality.

After Paul Teaches on Grace, he Describes how to Spot an Authentic Christian. Interestingly, Every Point is based on Our Relationships with God, The World, Ourselves, Other Believers and Unbelievers.

- It is a Transformed Heart Change — Reflected in these Relationships — that Demonstrates a Genuine, Authentic Faith.

Often, We'd Prefer to do the "Work" and Follow the Rules, Impressing a Cosmic Scorekeeper. But God's Asking for Something Harder than Following the Rules: ***He's Asking for Our Hearts.***

- Practicing Genuine, Authentic Christianity starts by Grasping an Accurate Picture of God and His Love for You as His Child...
- Understanding that it's NOT about the Rules or Religion, and an Otherworldly Value on Relationships.
- It's Not about Checking Off these Boxes. God wants to Ignite Your Faith, and these Truths will Transform Your Faith and You'll Experience True Spirituality.

We Are to Be Consistent. The Job of a Diffuser is to Regulate the Flow of Whatever is Being Diffused...We are to Diffuse the Aroma of Christ with Abundance!

- *We are Called to Diffuse a Steady Flow of His Love... To Draw People to Him by the Sweet Aroma of His Grace, Truth and Mercy.*
- *This Requires that we Spend Time in Gods Word, In Prayer and Fellowship with God's People so that We Will Be Transformed into the Image of Christ!*

We are to Be Prepared. We have to Prepare Our Words and Our Message; but We also have to Prepare Our Hearts for the Effect We Will have on People.

Verse 16 says, Being saved, We are an "Aroma of Life" leading to life...and to the Perishing, an "Aroma of Death" leading to death."

Remember... We Won't be Received by All People. The Fragrance of Christ is Offensive to those who Reject Him...And as they Reject Christ...They Will Reject Us.

- To the Person who Rejects Christ, Gods Truth "His Words" Are Just Intolerable.

But what Will NOT BE INTOLERABLE to Them...is When They See Our "Loving Actions"...Diffusing God's Love Will Open their Hearts to Hear God's Word.

Consistently Diffusing a Godly Fragrance can be the Hardest Thing to Do. But as We Diffuse the Fragrance of Christ, and Model His Love and Sacrifice for Others, The Holy Spirit Will Move in their Hearts!

Lastly...In 1 Peter 3:15 He Says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with Gentleness and Respect."

The Apostle Peter says don't be Brash or Proudful or Overbearing...We are to Diffuse God's Love in a Gentle, Loving and Caring Way.

As We Let People Experience Christ through Our Loving Actions...Sharing Gods Word as the Real Solution to Every Issue of Their Lives...Their Hearts Will Be Open to Hear What God Has to Say to Them.

"LIFE" POINT: May God's Life Live in Me So That I Will Diffuse Him to the World!