



The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

#27

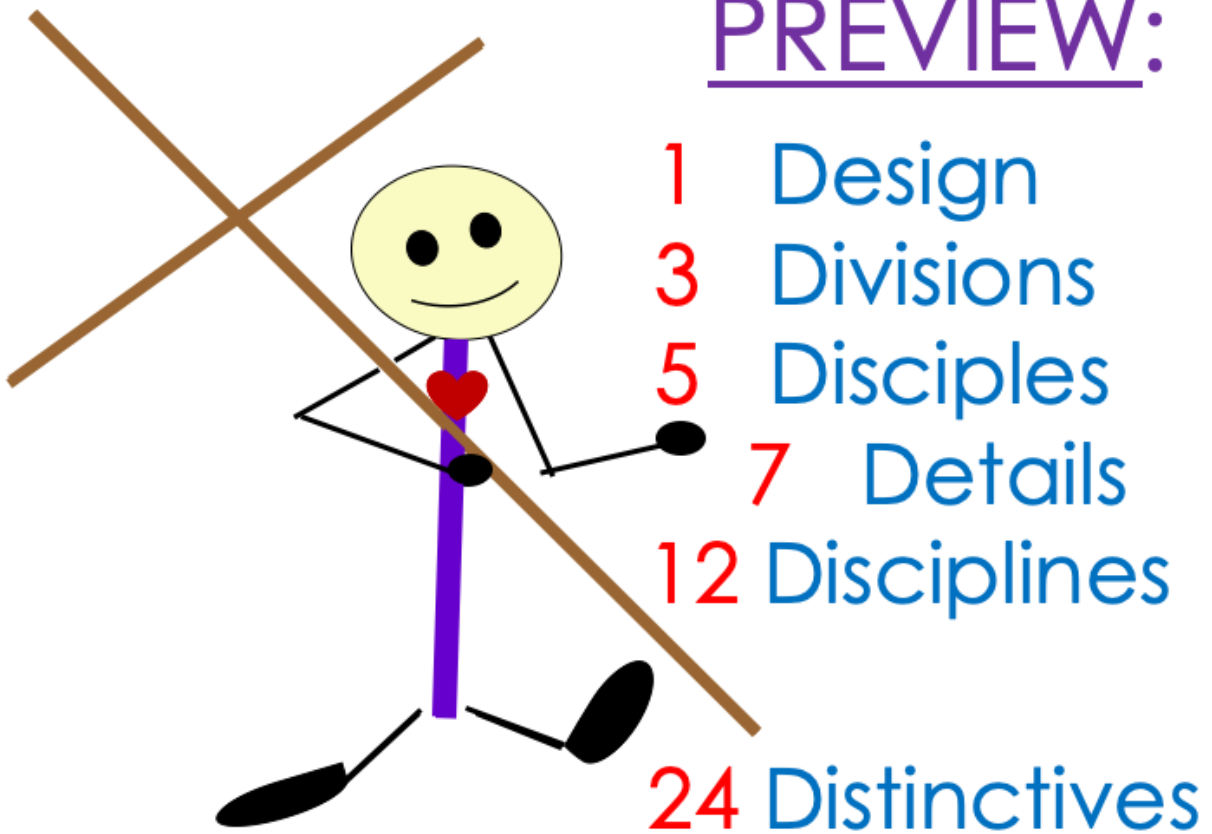
Relationships

1 John 2:18-27

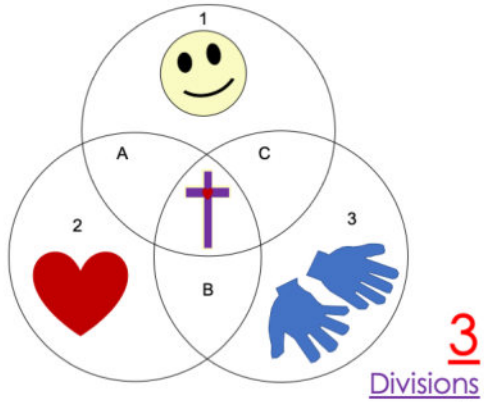
(Come And See Christianity book pages 80-81)

The FLOW

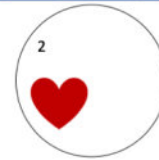
PREVIEW:



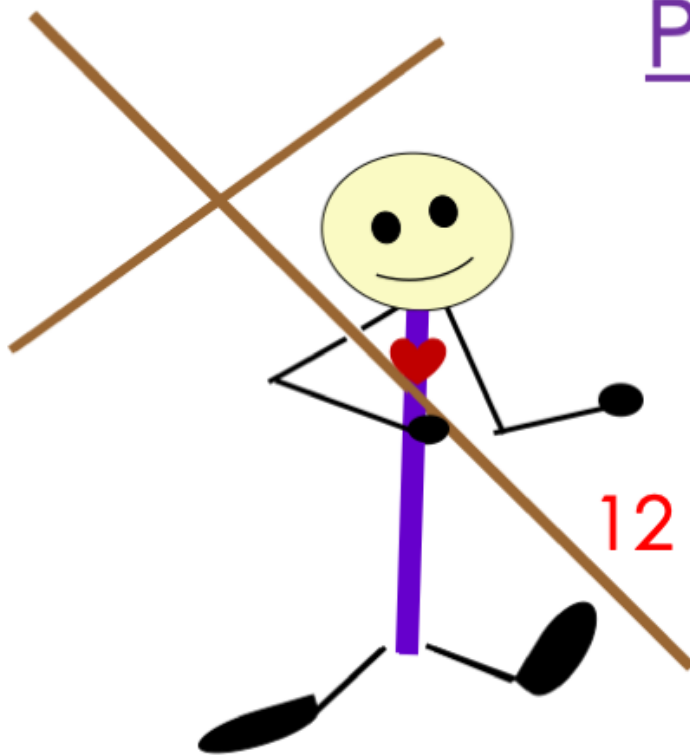
SECTION FIVE: 12 Disciplines



The
HEART



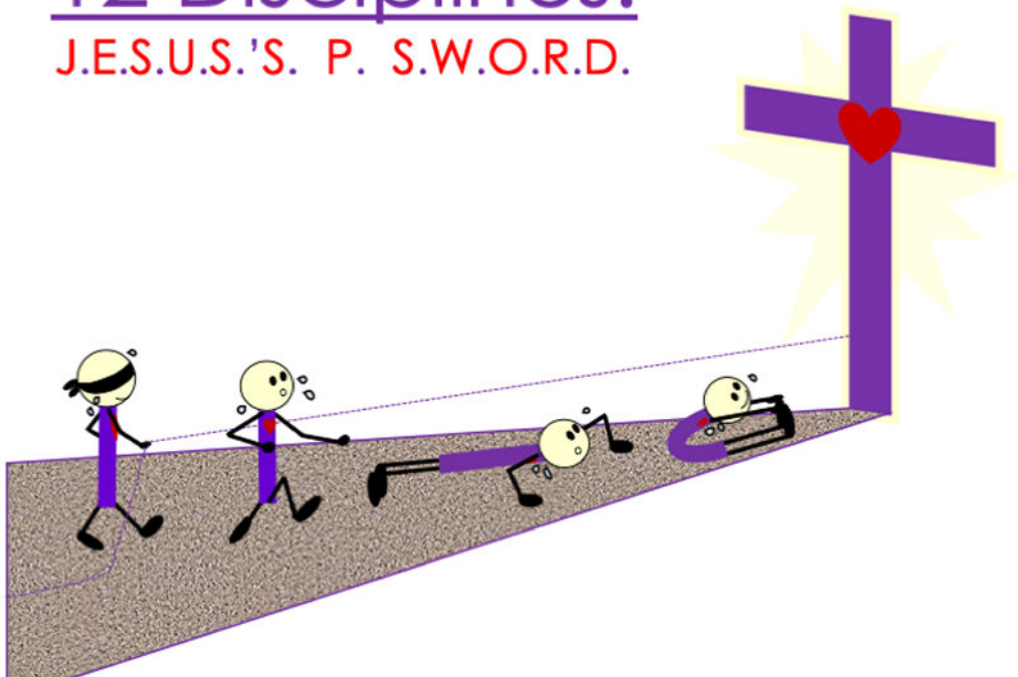
PREVIEW:



12 Disciplines

12 DISCIPLINES: Here are some heart exercises for you... These discipleship “**disciplines**” can help Christians to **strengthen** their **faith** and grow as missional & maturing Christ-followers.

12 Disciplines:
J.E.S.U.S.'S P. S.W.O.R.D.





Relationships

RELATIONSHIPS:

Christianity is all about **spiritual, vertical, & horizontal relationships**. Jesus said the lost world would see & know His **true followers** by their **love** and **Christ-like witness**.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

INTRO:

Welcome to another major transition point in your discipleship journey and our Come And See Christianity curriculum. By way of review, thus far, we have gone through Section One's single lesson on God's divine DESIGN, then Section Two's three unifying and introductory lessons on every human's 3 DIVISIONS (our HEAD, HEART, and HANDS); we then followed up with the universally inclusive definitions and descriptions of humanity's 5 types of people, also known as biblical DISCIPLES (the LOST, LOVER, LEARNER, LEADER, and LIFER), each having received their own lesson. Next came what we just completed, Section Four's 7 lessons on Christianity's fundamental, knowledge-based truths, also known as The DETAILS (FOUNDATIONS, FRAMEWORK, FACTS, FIGHT, FAITH, FAMILY, and FOREVER).

Now, in the same way that Sections 1-4 (and their 16 compiled lessons) all concentrated on aspects of "The HEAD" and the truth of God's Word, Section 5 will contain 12 complementary lessons (**J.E.S.U.S.'S. P.S.W.O.R.D.**) that focus on HEART exercises, also known as spiritual DISCIPLINES, that can help to grow and strengthen the Christian's truth-filled, loving, and faithfully obedient HEART...

12 HEART Strengthening DISCIPLINES:

1. *Journaling*
2. *Eat-nothing (Fasting)*
3. *Scripture intake*
4. *Understudy of Scripture*
5. *Solitude*
6. *Stewardship*
7. *Prayer*
8. *Serving*
9. *Worship*
10. *Outreach*
11. *Relationships*
12. *Development*

PRAYER:

LORD, we seek to bless You with all that is within us. Help us here, we pray, to be that blessing as we come to better understand You and Your eternal truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Help us to see with Your eyes and love with Your love, all that You would reveal to us through Your Word, Your will, and Your ways. May we grow in our grasp of Your realities, Your means of restoration, and Your mission of reproduction. In the holy name of Jesus, we pray. Amen and Amen

CONTEXT:

Macro

Spiritual Disciplines

(The content herein is predominantly derived and expanded upon from Dr. Don Whitney's *Spiritual Disciplines* & Dr. Chuck Lawless' *Disciplined Warriors*.)

I. SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES ... FOR THE PURPOSE OF GODLINESS

*Ours is an undisciplined age. The old disciplines are breaking down.
... We **need** the rugged strength of Christian **character**
that can come only from discipline.*

- V. Raymond Edman

Discipline without direction is drudgery!

The Bible says of God's elect, "*For those whom He foreknew He also predestined **to be conformed** to the image of His Son"*
(Romans 8:29)

Although God will grant Christlikeness to us when Jesus returns, until then He intends for us to grow toward it.

We aren't merely to wait for holiness; we're to pursue it.

All who come to God trusting in the person and work of Jesus to make them right with God are given the Holy Spirit (see Ephesians 1:13-14). The presence of the Holy Spirit causes all those in whom He resides to have new holy hungers they didn't have before.

Hebrews 12:14 is clear:

Anyone who is not striving for holiness will not see the Lord!

The urgent question every Christian should ask is, *“How then shall I pursue holiness... How can I become more like Christ?”* God’s Word offers a clear answer in...

1 Timothy 4:7

“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”

The only road to Christian maturity and godliness (a.k.a. Christlikeness & holiness) passes through the practice of the Spiritual Disciplines.

Godliness is the goal of the Disciplines... remember this and the ***Spiritual Disciplines become delights vs drudgery.***

II. WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES?

Spiritual Disciplines are those practices found in Scripture (and in application) that promote spiritual growth among believers in The Gospel.

Spiritual Disciplines are the **habits of devotion** and **experiential Christianity** that have been **practiced** by the people of God since biblical times.

The Disciplines could be described in several ways:

- “First, the Bible prescribes both **personal** and **interpersonal** Spiritual Disciplines.”
- **Spiritual Disciplines are activities, NOT attitudes.**
 - Disciplines are practices... NOT character qualities, graces, or “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22-23).
 - **Disciplines are things you do!**

The goal of practicing a given Discipline, is not about “DOing” as much as it is about “BEing,” that is, BEing like Jesus. But the biblical way to grow in BEing more like Jesus is through the rightly motivated doing of the biblical Spiritual Disciplines.

- We do specific practices *sometimes* that cultivate being more like Jesus *all the time*.
- Spiritual Disciplines are practices taught or modeled in the Bible. (Without this limitation, we might call anything we fancy a Spiritual Discipline.)
- Spiritual Disciplines found in Scripture are sufficient for knowing & experiencing God & growing in Christlikeness.
 - See 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - See 2 Peter 1:3 & Philippians 4:13
- Spiritual Disciplines are practices derived from the gospel, NOT divorced from the gospel.
- ***Spiritual Disciplines are means, not ends.***

Godliness is both closeness to Christ and conformity to Christ.

CAUTION: *While we cannot be godly without the practice of the Disciplines, we can practice the Disciplines without being godly...*

So, the Spiritual Disciplines are those personal and interpersonal activities given by God in the Bible as the sufficient means believers in Jesus Christ are to use in the Spirit-filled, gospel-driven pursuit of godliness, that is, closeness to Christ and conformity to Christ.

III. SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES... AS MEANS TO GODLINESS

Godliness comes through discipline.

- God uses **three primary catalysts for changing us** and conforming us into Christlikeness, but only one is largely under our control.
 - #1: God uses people to change people.**
 - *"Iron sharpens iron," says Proverbs 27:17.*
 - *Sometimes God uses our friends to sharpen us into more Christlike living, and sometimes He uses our enemies to file away our rough, ungodly edges.*
 - #2: God uses circumstance(s) as His catalyst for change.**

#3: God uses spiritual disciplines to change His people.

*God uses spiritual disciplines
to work on His people from the **inside out**.*

Colossians 1:29 illustrates how **the efforts of a Christian & the work of God—can occur simultaneously** in a person indwelt by the Holy Spirit (cf. Philippians 2:13).

See here divine grace AND human responsibility...

*As physical disciplines promote bodily strength, so
the Spiritual Disciplines promote godliness.*

- Think of the Spiritual Disciplines as ways by which we can spiritually place ourselves in the path of God's grace and seek Him, much **like Zacchaeus** placed himself physically in Jesus' path and sought Him. The Lord, by His Spirit, still travels down certain paths that He has ordained and revealed in Scripture. We call these paths the Spiritual Disciplines...

*If we will place ourselves on these paths and look
for Him there by faith, we can expect
to encounter Him.*

IV. SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES... GOD'S WILL FOR CHRISTIANS

*"Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness"
makes it plain that **this is a command of God**, not merely a suggestion.*

- **Holiness is not an option for those who claim to be children of the Holy One** (see 1 Peter 1:15-16), so neither are the means of holiness—that is, the *Spiritual Disciplines*—an option.
- Jesus is the model of discipline in & for godliness.
- Many professing Christians are spiritually undisciplined and seem to have little Christlike fruit and power in their lives. Yet, many of them are remarkably disciplined in other areas of their lives.
- Too many Christians trivialize their effectiveness for the kingdom of God through a lack of discipline.
- The danger of neglecting the Spiritual Disciplines is the danger of bearing little spiritual fruit—your life counting little for the sake of the kingdom.

"I'm not afraid of failure. I'm afraid of succeeding at things that don't matter."

- William Carey

"Freedom and discipline have come to be regarded as mutually exclusive, when in fact freedom is not at all the opposite, but rather the final reward, of discipline."

Elisabeth Elliot

If your picture of a disciplined Christian is one of a grim, tight-lipped, joyless half-robot, then you've missed the point.

*By means of the Disciplines,
let the truths of The Gospel restore your soul.*

Micro

John 13:34-35 & 14:15

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

35*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

If you love Me, you will obey My commandments.

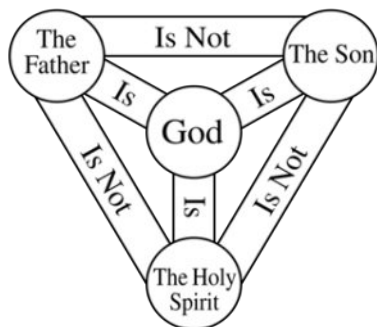
- Jesus

Message

Christianity is defined by RELATIONSHIPS!

In one sense, with God's Word serving as our authority and blueprint, we can engage and explain Christ, Christianity, and The Church through the perspective of RELATIONSHIPS. For example, the God of the Bible is One in essence and three in person. Thus, we need to understand God relationally.

God's Holy Trinity is the perfect, purest standard of all RELATIONSHIPS.



From that heavenly insight, if we lower our gaze and look at the very origin of humanity, we quickly realize that God's crowning jewel of creation is another RELATIONSHIP - the human family. *"Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him... And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man" (see Genesis 2:18-25).*

Adam and Eve were just the beginning... God's divine design and missional intent for RELATIONSHIPS fills the pages of the Holy Bible – from cover to cover. Whether we look to the Old Testament's focus on God's glory, meant to be magnified through His chosen people and their covenant RELATIONSHIPS, or we move to Christ's coming and all the New Testament accounts of His relational and sacrificial love (John 3:16), we see that there can be no healthy understanding or representation of Christ, Christianity, and/or The Church without a biblical understanding of BOTH, every human's need for a miraculous vertical RELATIONSHIP, as well as The Messiah's commanded commissioning (Matthew 28:18-20) of every Christian's horizontal and missional RELATIONSHIP.

In short, God's Word, will, and ways are resounding and unmistakably clear. **Christ-centered RELATIONSHIPS should define and describe the Christian's life** (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). Again, to underscore the divine and truly supernatural aspect of Christianity's faith family, Romans 8:16 declares: *"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."*

Given the essential role that RELATIONSHIPS play in a right and righteous embrace of the Christian faith and family, exceptional care must be taken to establish biblical "guard-rails" and principled, trustworthy parameters when learning about RELATIONSHIPS. Why? Because we live in a fallen, sin-filled world where *"many will say, 'peace, peace' where there is no peace"* (Jeremiah 6:14). Sadly, as D.L. Moody famously said: **"Love can be counterfeited."** For our purposes in this lesson, remember, wherever there is truth, lies are lurking. Where the seeds of love are sown, the weeds of hate creep in. Where fidelity and trust strengthen, infidelity and hypocrisy destroy. Where marriage is a relational masterpiece, divorce is grotesque... For every RELATIONSHIP mountaintop that God has offered us, Satan has a dangerous cliff and/or deceptive valley designed for our death and despair.

From this vantage point, we begin to better understand Christ's expressed passion and defining priority in His high, priestly, intercessory prayer (see John 17:21-23), in which He asks the Father to gift His Christian family a trinitarian-like love, a missional embrace of one another that creates a "complete/perfect unity." Now, in recognizing and respecting the LORD's eternal intentions for love and unity, this lesson will look at RELATIONSHIPS through the guarded lens of 1st John, an epistle that is specifically focused on defining and defending The Church, the body of Christ, the family of God.

BIG IDEA:

Christianity is all about spiritual, vertical, and horizontal relationships. Christians are defined and identified by their Christ-like love and witness.

PREVIEW:

1. Biblical Relationships
2. Personal Relationships
3. Missional Relationships

TEXT:

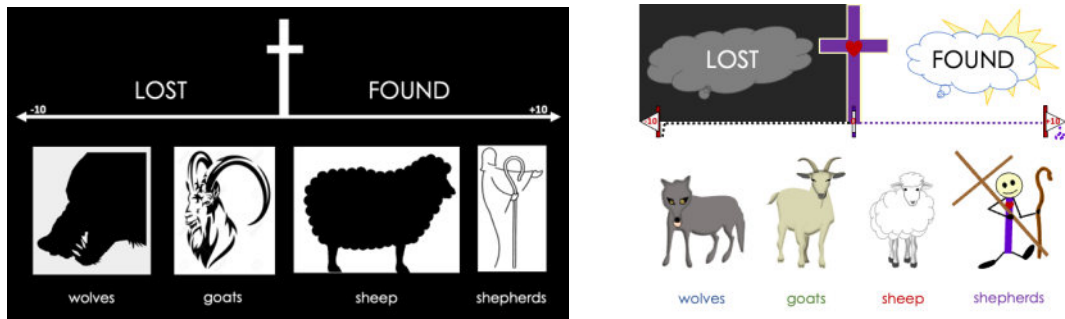
1 John 2:18-27

*...I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. **27**But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie — just as it has taught you, abide in him.*

1. Biblical Relationships

Illustration:

Sometimes pictures are worth more than 1,000 words.



Note how Christ and His cross remains at the center of everything.

Then, see that there are only two ultimate groups being separated and defined by the cross, the LOST and the FOUND, those going to heaven and those heading to hell. Next, notice how both sides of the cross have subgroups. Biblically speaking, the LOST can be divided into the intentionally evil and deceptive wolves (who are usually disguised as sheep (Matthew 7:15 & Acts 20:29)). The **wolves are the most dangerous and destructive human beings on the planet.** Next come the goats, those LOST souls who are often confused and/or deceived. While goats tend to be sincere in their belief that they are sheep (unlike the wolves who KNOW they are deceiving, dividing, and destroying), the goats are nonetheless LOST and going against God, as determined by His Word, will, and ways.

On the other side of the cross, by God's grace and through His Gospel, we have the Lord's FOUND family. Here, the Christians can also be seen in their various stages of maturity and Christ-likeness. At the most basic level, as noted above, the FOUND are sheep and shepherds. If we press into the FOUND (also known as The Church, The Family of God, The Body of Christ, etc.) we can see the markings of saving and sanctifying grace in the RELATIONSHIPS between baby lambs, adult sheep, sheep-dogs, and under-shepherds. Note: in section three of this curriculum we defined and described the FOUND faith family as the LOVERS (here baby lambs), the LEARNERS (here adult sheep), the LEADERS (now described as sheep-dogs), and the LIFERS (referenced in this lesson as the under-shepherds).

Listen carefully... it is critical to understand that in each case, be it amongst the LOST or within the FOUND family of God, **every RELATIONSHIP is defined by the individual's connection or disconnection to/from Christ.** Moreover, whatever the biblical truth is regarding a person's eternal RELATIONSHIP with God, that same truth, whether the person in question knows it, likes it, or admits it... will be mirrored in their relational connection or disconnection to/from Christ's FOUND family... Beware Christian, this too will be true, even if the genuine faith family is deceived and does not believe it (see **Judas and the shocked disciples in Matthew 26:21-25**).

Explanation:

What does it mean to be a part of the family of God?

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ and the Father are One ([John 1:1-4](#)), and that He is also the only begotten Son of God ([Hebrews 1:1-4](#)). This familial term indicates God regards Jesus as a family member. Born-again believers are told that we, too, are members of this family ([Romans 9:8](#); [1 John 3:1-2](#)). How do we become a part of this family of God? When we hear the gospel, confess our sins, and place our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, we are at that moment born into God's kingdom as His children and become heirs with Him for eternity ([Romans 8:14-17](#)).

While Jesus Christ is referred to as the only begotten Son of God, believers are referred to as children born into God's family who need to grow and mature in our faith ([Ephesians 4:11-16](#)), and as sons and heirs adopted into His family ([Galatians 4:4-7](#)). God's infinite grace and mercy are revealed in [Ephesians 1:5-6](#), which says He redeems sinners, whom He has "adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves."

As children of God, what do we inherit? Nothing less than the kingdom of God ([Matthew 25:34](#); [1 Thessalonians 2:12](#); [Hebrews 12:28](#))! [Ephesians 1:3](#) tells us that believers are blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. These spiritual blessings are infinite, eternal, and reside in Christ, and by God's grace we are given these blessings as His children. As earthly children we eventually inherit what our parents leave behind for us after their death. But in God's case believers are already reaping the rewards of our inheritance by having peace with Him through the sacrifice of His Son on the cross. Other rewards of our inheritance include the gift of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at the moment we believe in Christ ([Ephesians 1:13-14](#)), which empowers us to live for Him in the present, and the knowledge that our salvation is secure for eternity ([Hebrews 7:24-25](#)).

Being a part of the family of God is the greatest blessing bestowed upon believers and one that should drive us to our knees in humble adoration. We can never do anything to deserve it for it is His gift of love, mercy, and grace to us, yet, we are called to become sons and daughters of the Living God ([Romans 9:25-26](#)). May we all respond in faith to His invitation!

GotQuestions.org

Application:

Matthew 10:16

*"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves;
so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.*

Go BE The Church!

Never stop guarding your doors, your doctrine, and your disciples.

2. Personal Relationships

Illustration:

*The plain, unvarnished truth is that every one of us needs the
accountability that comes from formal, regular, intimate
relationships with other godly people.*

- Wayne Mack

Explanation:

As noted earlier, **True Christianity is defined by RELATIONSHIPS.** When an individual has a miraculous, saving RELATIONSHIP with Jesus Christ as their personal and eternal LORD and Savior, said person is supernaturally transformed (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) out from spiritual death, into everlasting life. Similarly, when the new, born-again Christian lives as an ambassador in God's army, he or she is no longer identified by their individual status alone. No. Said soul is now a part of Christ's collective Church (capital "C" intended) family. Moreover, as a Spirit-filled believer and healthy member of God's Body, the Christian also experiences a radical shift in their RELATIONSHIPS to the LOST world, beginning locally, extending regionally, and going globally... all to fulfill Christ's Great Commission.

In short, to expand one's understanding of biblical RELATIONSHIPS further and apply those essential insights both personally and missionally, **there are (3) directional aspects to the Christian family's RELATIONSHIPS.**



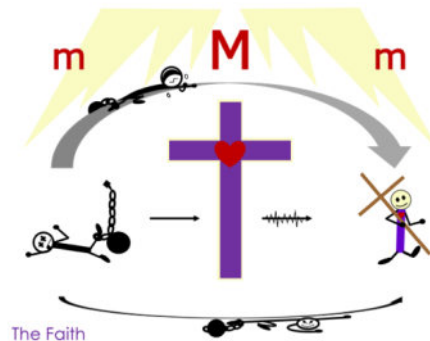
The Family

Christians love UP

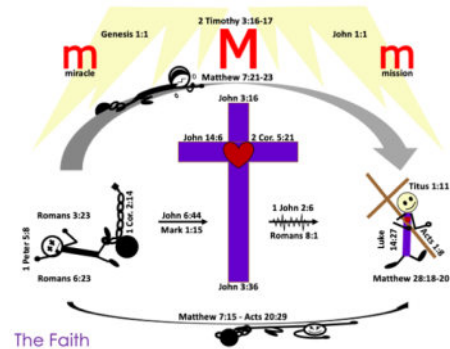
Christians love IN

Christians love OUT

- A. **Loving UP** begins with acceptance of The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- a. miracles are required to make dead people be born again!
 - b. MESSIAH and His cross are the only Means of that miracle!
 - c. missionaries then carry their cross, making Christian disciples!

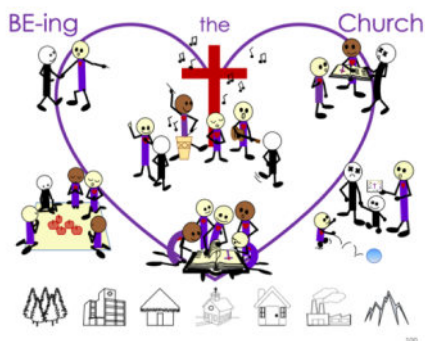


The Faith



The Faith

B. **Loving IN** defines and describes BEING in real Church RELATIONSHIPS.



Another way to BE “Loving IN” is to BE the Greek word: “koinonia.” Koinonia embodies the supernatural love and fellowship that God’s family is to offer to one another (*Matthew 13:35; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 1:9, 10:16 (2X); 2 Cor. 6:14, 8:4, 9:13, 13:14; Galatians 2:9; Ephesians 3:9; Philippians 1:5, 2:1, 3:10; Philemon 1:6; Hebrews 13:16; 1 John 1:3 (2X), 1:6-7 (2X)*). Koinonia also serves as a witness to God’s glory and an inspirational invitation to the LOST.

C. **Loving OUT** literally means GOING and loving LOST outsiders (*Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; John 20:21*), BE-ing The Church, individually and collectively, bringing Christ’s multi-faceted truth in love (*Ephesians 4:15*) out to the world, *multiplying biblical disciples who make disciples, who make disciples, all by God’s loving grace, locally, regionally, and globally.*



Application:

If we allow natural affection and human admiration or the lack of these to govern our efforts, we will surely fail in our work and our lives shall be ruined.

To obtain genuine fruitfulness we frequently need to disregard fleshly relationships. Our thoughts and desires must be offered completely to the Lord.

- Watchman Nee

3. Missional Relationships

Illustration:

There are some men and some women in whose company we are always at our best. While with them we cannot think mean thoughts or speak ungenerous words. Their mere presence is elevation, purification, sanctity. All the best stops in our nature are drawn out by their intercourse, and we find a music in our souls that was never there before.

- Henry Drummond

Explanation:

Jesus Christ declared himself to be ***“the way, the truth, and the life”*** in John 14:6. Accordingly, authentic Christians believe Jesus and seek to grow in their God-honoring, faithfully obedient (John 14:15) RELATIONSHIP with Him. As a result, those who have received the Messiah’s miraculous, blood-bought gift of saving grace, will live with a Holy Spirit empowered (Acts 1:8) want-to... **Christians want to worship, serve, and please God.**

Think of it this way. Because born again (John 3:3) believers know Jesus as their eternal LORD, and both the Definer and Sustainer of all loving RELATIONSHIPS, they seek to align themselves with Him and His definitions of missional love. ***God’s truth + God’s love + God’s people = God’s mission.***

With that said, having now seen that our RELATIONSHIPS need to be defined biblically, established personally, and then shared missionally, per Christ’s truth in love, let us walk, guided by God’s Spirit, down the narrow, sparsely travelled way (John 7:14), between the guardrails of God’s Word, will, and ways, into the meaning and messiness of real, missional, Worship, Warfare, and Witnessing RELATIONSHIPS.

The guardrails of God’s Word and the guidance of God’s Spirit become the Christian’s ultimate authority and trusted Interpreter.

A. WORSHIPPING Relationships

- a. Christianity exemplifies grace based, Gospel blessed, and God honoring RELATIONSHIPS between Christians and Creator Christ.
- b. Consequently, all missional RELATIONSHIPS should be a Worship displaying extension and overflow from the FOUND (baby lamb, grown sheep, leading sheepdog, and/or serving under-shepherd) family member to those with whom they interact, regardless of the other person’s status as either LOST or FOUND.

- c. Whether the Christian is relationally walking a normal day's way, warning others of wrong-doing, or actively warring against God's most aggressive enemies, their ultimate goal is to always display the fruit and faithfulness of validating, God glorifying worship.

*As believers in Christ Jesus, we have the benefit of enjoying
a rich and full relationship with God every day.*

- Crystal McDowell

B. WARRING Relationships

There is a missional reason why God has commanded His people to practice Church discipline, while putting on & living in His full armor!

- a. To ignore or minimize the reality of spiritual warfare and its relational trappings is to disobey and disregard the Word of God.
- b. Satan's warring relationship against God and God's family is another theme that runs through the Bible from cover to cover.
 - i. See Satan's prideful fall from heaven (Revelation 12:7-12).
 - ii. See Satan's deceitful warring vs. Adam & Eve in Genesis 3.
 - iii. See Satan's sin-soaked influence across the Old Testament.
 - iv. See Satan's tempting attack on Christ in Matthew 4:1-11.
 - v. See Satan's prowling intentions on earth in 1st Peter 5:8.
 - vi. See Satan's angelic disguise on earth in 2 Corinthians 11:14.
 - vii. See Satan's workers same disguises in 2 Corinthians 11:15.
- c. A deep and sobering study of 1st John's five chapters will offer the reader a chilling, full context understanding of the dangers, deceitfulness, and destructive realities that warrant and demand Christianity's warring RELATIONSHIPS and righteous anger.
 - i. See also the biblically combative, "imprecatory psalms" [7, 35, 55, 58, 59, 69, 79, 83, 109, 137].
 - ii. Note as well, Christ's making of a whip and clearing the Temple – twice... in John 2:11-12 and Matthew 21:17-23.
 - iii. To read the book of Revelation is to see in shocking terms the reality of eternal warring in missional RELATIONSHIPS.

*Loving the world destroys our relationship with God, it denies
our faith in God, and it discounts our future with God.*

David Jeremiah

C. WITNESSING Relationships

*Love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
And love your neighbor as yourself. – Jesus The Christ*

Many professing Christians are surprised to learn that **witnessing for Christ is the express reason given by the resurrected King of kings and LORD of lords for the very presence and power of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life.** This truth was emphatically declared by Jesus, just prior to His heavenly ascending, right in front of the disciples, as shared in Acts 1:8-9.

With this defining explanation in hand, missional RELATIONSHIPS can now be understood in a full, biblical, and witnessing context. To that end, see how Christianity is anchored in a proper definition, description, and disciple's RELATIONSHIP with Christ and His Church. Notice as well, the Bible reveals that RELATIONSHIPS can and will be both good and bad.

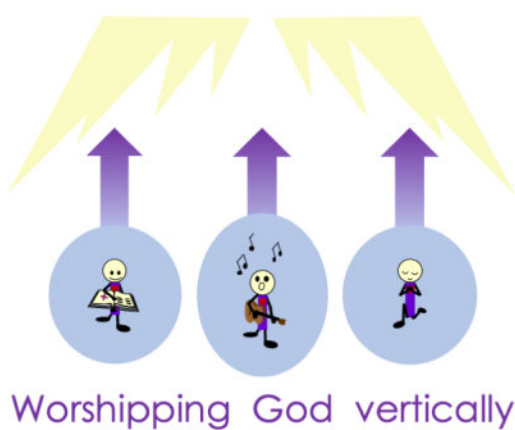
Missional RELATIONSHIPS will be both treasured and treacherous.

Consequently, it is God's Word, will, and ways that need to serve as the blueprint and bullseye for all Worshipping, Warring, and Witnessing RELATIONSHIPS. Moreover, when one reads Scriptural texts like Acts 1:8, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Matthew 28:18-20, and John 3:36, God's inspired intent for all missional RELATIONSHIPS becomes beyond clear.

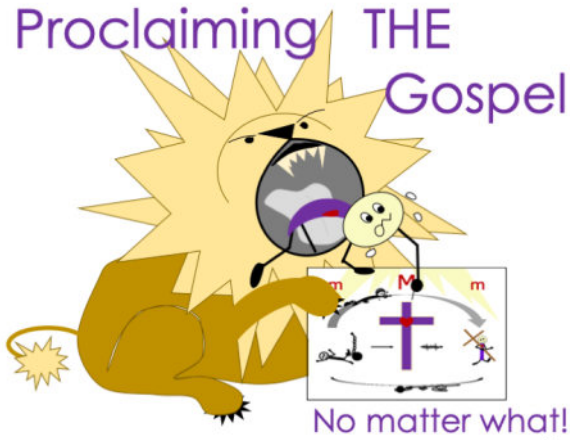
EVERY aspect of our understanding & application of RELATIONSHIPS is to be defined by God's Word, will, and ways. If it is not biblical, personal, and missional, which requires transparent truth and lasting love, said RELATIONSHIP is somewhere between unhealthy and destructive. The good news is, per the Bible, there is a narrow way to healthy RELATIONSHIPS for everyone.

Application:

Missional Relationships are...



Proclaiming THE Gospel



No matter what!

108

Fishing for men



109

AND...

Winning spiritual warfare



Making disciples warriors

110



111

AND...

Loving our King



112

Serving His kingdom



113

CLOSE:

In true, biblically healthy Christianity, ALL aspects of our multi-faceted RELATIONSHIPS are to be defined biblically, applied personally, and shared missionally.

In the time we have it is surely our duty to do all the good we can, to all the people we can, in all the ways we can.

- William Barclay

For What?

ALL of our RELATIONSHIPS should be FOR God's glory!

So What?

God's glory is ALWAYS a big deal. Thus, so is every RELATIONSHIP.

Now What?

It is time for The Church to BE The Church, for the glory of God!

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, thank You so much for the Truth and Love of Your Word, will, and ways. Please help us to absorb and apply ALL that You have shared and commanded in the Bible. May our heads be infilled with Your defining Scriptures, for the express purpose of informing, inspecting, and inspiring our sanctified hearts and serving hands.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen and Amen

Support Sermon:

"Antichrists vs. Always Christ's"

1 John 2:18-27

October 20, 2013

Sermon Series: 1st John – "BE The Church"