



The
FLOW
Adult CURRICULUM

#52

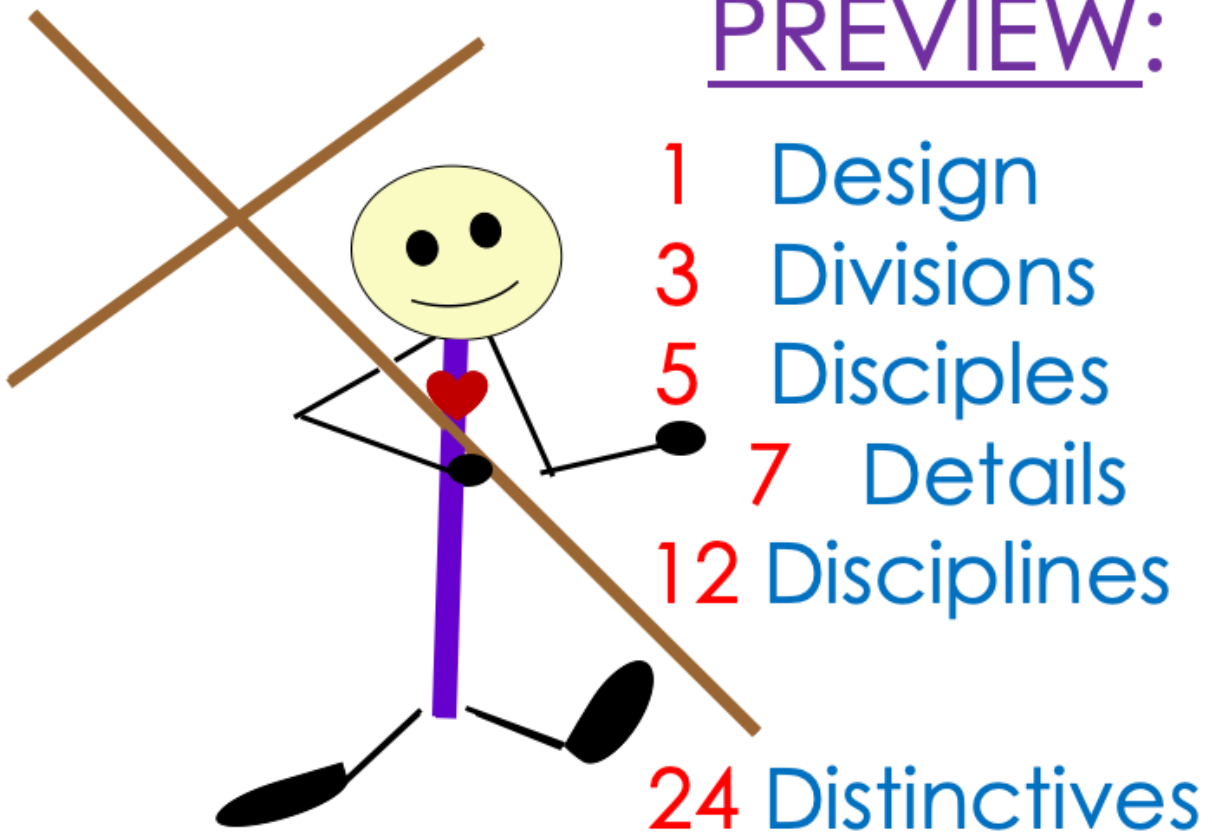
Serving His Kingdom

Acts 28:31c

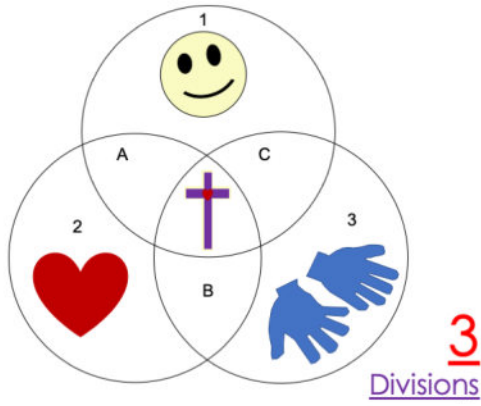
(Come And See Christianity book page 115)

The FLOW

PREVIEW:

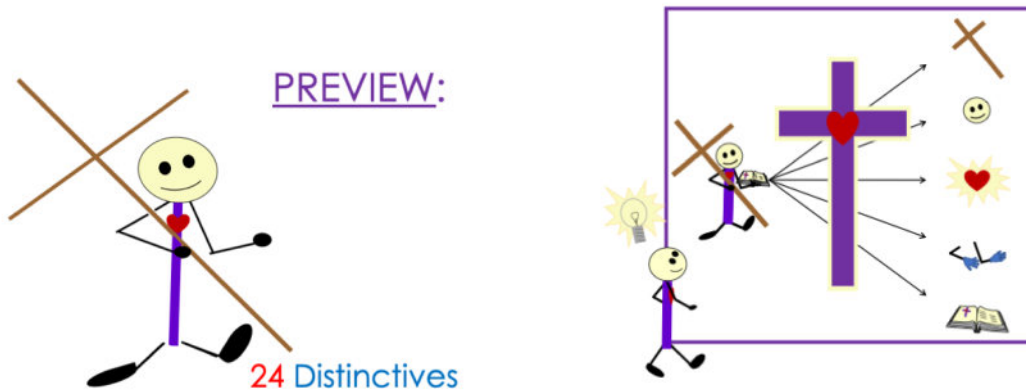


SECTION SIX: 12 Disciplines



The Disciple's "Hands" put into **action** the **truth** & **love** of God's Word, God's will, & God's ways. In short, when **each Christian's Head, Heart, & Hands** are united in purpose & power, the family of God is **living** as the **Body of Christ!**

24 Family Distinctives:



24 DISTINCTIVES:

The “**distinctives**” are a family portrait... When you add God’s Word, God’s Spirit, God’s Truth, God’s love, and God’s people all together, the **distinctives** are what **we look, love, & live like :-)**

We are...



INTRO:

As we begin to **see the beautiful, biblical portrait of Christ's faith-filled family** defined and described by God's Word, will, and ways, it is critical to remember that the Holy Bible is to ALWAYS BE our ultimate source, authority, and interpreter in ALL things pertaining to one's understanding of reality and application of truth in love.

Remember,
The biblical Church is Christ's missional family...
Moreover, God's Word reveals our Father's will and His family's ways.

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, **17**so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Here are ***24 defining & describing HANDS-on DISTINCTIVES of Christianity:***

True Christians are biblically, miraculously, intentionally, missionally, and imperfectly...

1. *Responding to grace*
2. *Repenting of sin*
3. *Trusting the Bible*
4. *Obeying God's Word*
5. *Growing in Christ*
6. *Living Spirit-led*
7. *Praying for guidance*
8. *Following by faith*
9. *Dying to self*
10. *Carrying our cross*
11. *BE-ing The Church*
12. *Loving one another (truly loving one another)*
13. *Equipping the saints*
14. *Exemplifying supernatural unity*
15. *Ministering as ambassadors*
16. *Discerning matters shrewdly*
17. *Worshipping God vertically*
18. *Experiencing Him horizontally*
19. *Proclaiming the Gospel (no matter what)*
20. *Fishing for men*
21. *Making disciplined warriors*
22. *Winning spiritual warfare*
23. *Loving our King*
24. *Serving His kingdom*

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

This lesson marks another major transition point in our curriculum's eye-opening explanation of Christianity. By way of review, we began in Section One with the reality of Almighty God having 1 Divine DESIGN (also known as a biblical worldview and the eternal application of Jesus Christ's Gospel). In Section Two, we addressed the 3 DIVISIONS (Head, Heart, and Hands) that make up the "being" in every human being. Next, in Section Three, we demonstrated how Christianity accounts for, defines, and describes all of humanity, every person, past, present, and future. We noted that all people can be identified as one of the 5 DISCIPLES – Lost, Lover, Learner, Leader, or Lifer. Moving forward, Section Four revealed, engaged, and explained the 7 fundamental DETAILS of God's Divine DESIGN... because **we all need to know what we need to know**. To be more specific, those seven truths are: The Foundations, The Framework, The Facts, The Fight, The Faith, The Family, and the truth about Forever.

Then, in Section Five, which we just completed, our focus shifted from HEAD based truths to 12 HEART shaping exercises or disciplines - each having the potential to strengthen one's personal relationship with Christ, His Church, and their collective mission: bringing God glory by finding & growing more glorifiers.

We used the acronym **J.E.S.U.S.'S. P. S.W.O.R.D.** to outline and harmonize a biblical, missional, and intentional methodology for growing in God's love - & His loving witness. The 12 HEART DISCIPLINES are: **J**ournaling... **E**ating-nothing (fasting)... **S**cripture-intake... **U**nderstudy of Scripture... **S**tewardship... **S**olitude... **P**rayer... **S**erving... **W**orshipping... **O**utreach... **R**elationships... and **D**evelopment.

Now, our curriculum and study will transition to The HANDS. This is where **Christians demonstrate to the world that Christ is in their worship & witness**. Whereas our time spent in the HEAD sections (1-4) focused on the truths that Christians need and seek to LEARN, and our concentration on the 12 HEART DISCIPLINES of section 5 helped us to grow in God's LOVE, our sixth and final section will **walk through the 24 DISTINCTIVES, which explain & exemplify how Christians are to faithfully LIVE... and fully BE The Church... together** – all by God's grace & ALL for His glory!

God's Word puts it this way:

"Let us not love with word and tongue but in action and truth." – 1st John 3:18

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, [47](#)praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. – Acts 2:46-47

I. **DISTINCTIVES are FRUIT:**

It is important to realize that God's miraculous and authentic **Christian DISTINCTIVES are the FRUIT of saving grace and faith** (Ephesians 2:1-10). As Jesus described in John 15, people can do nothing outside of their abiding in Him and obeying His Word, will and ways. In short, there will be no fruit unless one remains attached to and provided for by the true Vine and divine Root. With that said, a cautionary note is worth sharing here, beware the counterfeits that abound around the world. ***Plastic fruit is deceptive vs. DISTINCTIVE!***

Galatians 5:22-25

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

II. **DISTINCTIVES are FAMILY:**



DISTINCTIVES, by definition, are those “distinguishing characteristics that are notable for having a special quality, style, and/or attractiveness” (Dictionary.com).

When it comes to God's family, the true Church, each Christian and their individualistic DISTINCTIVES are as unique as their potential. At the same time, in the same way that a billion unique snowflakes can be combined to make a single snowstorm, or countless swatches of scrap fabric can be sewn together to make a single quilt, so it is with God's family. The LORD creates His Christian family with a both/and combination of DISTINCTIVE uniqueness, as well as DISTINCTIVE love and defining unity.

Christianity's DISTINCT family (ecclesia) has a DISTINCTIVE unity (koinonia).

“By this all people will know that you are My disciple, if you have love for one another.”
– John 13:35

“The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

III. **DISTINCTIVES are WITNESS:**

The most biblical and healthy understandings of Christianity will include an embrace of two overarching and DISTINCTIVE purposes. Namely, per God’s Word, will, and ways, every Christian has received miraculous, saving grace, as well as the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to:

1. Bring glory to God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do all to the glory of God.*

2. BE Christ’s witness.

Acts 1:8

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, **and you will be My witnesses** in Jerusalem (locally), and in all Judea and Samaria (regionally), and to the end of the earth (globally).”*

God’s DISTINCTIVE people have been filled with His Holy Spirit for the express purpose of living DISTINCTIVE lives. When the world sees the LORD’s loving family living out their divinely empowered and God-honoring worship, work, and warfare, the resulting fruit will serve as a faithful witness, built with supernatural, grace-based, and missional DISTINCTIVES.

“God created me—and you—to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming passion—namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life.”

- John Piper

The Christian Distinctive

What distinguishes Christianity from all other religions is that it is a *revealed* religion. Christianity is not about our search for God or our means of finding him. Christianity is not a religion that works its way upward. It is all about God coming to us — God in grace making himself known to us and making a way for us to enjoy fellowship with him.

And so, at the very heart of Christianity is, simply, a message — a message from God to us about what he has done to bring us to himself.

If Christianity is distinctively revealed religion, then it is also uniquely *authoritative*. It does not offer itself as the best and highest of human thinking about God or even the best or most successful of human efforts to know God. It professes to be nothing less than the unique word from God, his very own self-disclosure and the record of the actions he has taken in Jesus Christ to bring us into fellowship with himself.

One of Rudyard Kipling's characters declares, "The heathen in his blindness bows down to wood and stone; He don't obey no orders unless they is his own." That is to say, human religions lack authority — they form their own ideas and "discover" their own beliefs.

By contrast the Christian is "under orders," because unlike human religions, Christianity is a revealed religion — divinely revealed. We Christians are not our own touchstone of truth, and we do not confuse our ideas about God with His own self-revelation. We learn truth about God not from "inner lights" within ourselves but from God's own objective Word.

And apart from this external authority, there is no Christianity. This, at bottom, is Christianity's leading distinctive.

And so, we **Christians prize Scripture as God's Word. We joyfully submit to it. And we enthusiastically proclaim its message of grace in Jesus Christ to the world.**

- Dr. Fred Zaspel

Micro

LOVING OUR KING will always lead to SERVING HIS KINGDOM!

“Jesus taught that your highest priority must be your relationship with Him. If anything detracts you from that relationship, that activity is not from God. God will not ask you to do something that hinders your relationship with Christ.”

- Henry Blackaby

“Your priorities must be God first, God second, and God third, until your life is continually face to face with God.”

- Oswald Chambers

Message

With all the ways that we could close out Come And See Christianity, with all the ways that this introduction to Creator God’s timeless existence, perfect plan, and endless story could reach its crescendo, why choose the lesson: “SERVING HIS KINGDOM” as the curriculum’s exclamation mark? Good question.

Here are 10 biblical, missional, & God-honoring considerations...

1. It is in line with Christ’s first words of blessing to us. (Genesis 1:27-28)
2. It is in line with Christ’s consistent words to us. (Jeremiah 30:22)
3. It is in line with Christ’s self-defining words to us. (Matthew 20:28)
4. It is in line with Christ’s commanded words to us. (Luke 14:27)
5. It is in line with Christ’s commissioning words to us. (Matthew 28:18-20)
6. It is in line with Christ’s refining words to us. (Matthew 25:40)
7. It is in line with Christ’s demonstrated words to us. (John 13:12)
8. It is in line with Christ’s last words to us. (Acts 1:8)
9. It is in line with Christ’s ultimate example to us. (John 6:38)
10. It is in line with Christ’s completed words to us. (John 19:30)

Finally, ***SERVING HIS KINGDOM is the comprehensive, all-encompassing, continuation clause for the KING’s LOVING Church.*** In short, we “BE” OUR best when we SERVE HIS bride & KINGDOM, evangelizing the world and making disciples who will make disciples who will make disciples... until Christ returns. Thus, this lesson & these last words: “***SERVING HIS KINGDOM,***” represent perpetual action, persistent attitudinal refinement, and a powerful affirmation of the Christian’s LOVING witness, namely, that ***JESUS IS LORD!***

BIG IDEA: **SERVING HIS KINGDOM** is a grace-based, blood-bought, biblical privilege and timeless, missional responsibility... a “witness” that is as simple as BE-ing The Church, and simultaneously, a war that is as sophisticated & customized as living out holistic obedience.

PREVIEW:

1. SERVING
2. HIS
3. KINGDOM

TEXT:

Acts 28:30-31

*He (Apostle Paul) lived there two whole years at his own expense, & welcomed all who came to him, **31**proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and **being unhindered.***

1. SERVING

Illustration:

***Where there is biblical LOVING there will be biblical SERVING.
No LOVING... no SERVING. No SERVING... no LOVING.
No other explanations... No more excuses.
(John 14:15 & John 20:21)***

You and I cannot be useful if we want to be sweet as honey in the mouths of men. God will never bless us if we wish to please men, that they may think well of us. Are you willing to tell them what will break your own heart in the telling and break theirs in the hearing? If not, you are not fit to serve the Lord. You must be willing to go and speak for God, though you will be rejected.”

- Charles Spurgeon

Explanation:

Biblical, God-honoring SERVING needs to have biblical, God-honoring meaning & measures in place, lest confusion and corruption, wrapped in worldly, superficial busyness will win the day, destroy the worship, and darken the witness of the professing church.

Christ-like SERVING is Christ-like LOVING and Christ-like LOVING is Christ-like obeying and Christ-like obeying is Christ-like SERVING. When you add to this closed circle the starting, sustaining, and completing role of God's amazing grace and miraculous mercy, you will see again why this lesson is an appropriate crescendo. To say it differently, in this self-sealing, Gospel-living portrait, it becomes clear that in all-things, especially LOVING and SERVING, it is our grace-based, humble and bold, Christ-likeness that authenticates EVERYTHING.

For personal encouragement, the Apostle Paul offers us all a great inspirational example... While he was far from perfect (Romans 7:15-20) and described himself as arguably the greatest of sinners (1st Timothy 1:15), he joyfully SERVED Creator Christ through tremendous trials and tribulations (2nd Corinthians 11:16-33). When he and his account close out the book of Acts, we see him SERVING HIS KING's KINGDOM with a Christ-likeness that was actively LOVING vertically UP and horizontally IN & OUT. Perhaps most impressive of all... most encouraging to you and me... without excuse or any form of reservation, the Bible tells us that he did so boldly & unhindered.

Christian, we have EVERYTHING we need to SERVE OUR KING with Christ-like zeal (2 Peter 1:3 & Titus 2:14). The only thing, in regards to SERVING HIS KINGDOM, that we do not have is an excuse (Titus 2:15).

Preaching the gospel without the Holy Spirit is to miss the entire point of the command of Jesus Christ for our era. In the area of "Christian activities" or "Christian service," how we are doing it is at least as important as what we are doing."
- Francis Schaeffer

Application:

***Go to church once a week and nobody pays attention.
Worship (and serve) God seven days a week and you become strange!***
- A.W. Tozer

**You cannot BE Christ's servant
if you are not willing to follow Him, cross and all.**

What do you crave? A crown? Then it must be a crown of thorns if you are to BE like Him. Do you want to be lifted up? So you shall, but it will be upon a cross! ...It has come to be a dreadfully common belief in the Christian church that the only man who has a "call" is the man who devotes all his time to what is called "the ministry." Whereas, ALL Christian service is ministry, and EVERY Christian has a call to (SERVE in) some kind of ministry or another...

You cannot have Christ if you will not serve Him!

- Charles Spurgeon

We're ALL in full-time Christian service. *We have different disguises, but the same vocation; to be out and out lovers and servants of the Lord Jesus Christ... no dichotomy exists between ministry and lifestyle.*

- Dwight Edwards

Service is not something we endure on this earth so we can earn the right to live in the celestial kingdom. Service is the very fiber of which an exalted life in the celestial kingdom is made.

- Marion G. Romney

Humility is the place where all Christian service begins.

- K.P. Yohannan

True Christianity is a life of (serving) sacrifice. It requires that in everything we live for the Lord and others, not ourselves.

- Rick Joyner

I believe that many professing Christians are cold and uncomfortable because they are doing nothing for their Lord, but if they actively served Him, their blood would begin to circulate spiritually, and it would be well with them.

- Charles Spurgeon

**Great occasions for serving God come seldom,
but little ones surround us daily.**

- Francis de Sales

*God's love is big enough to touch any life, to make light out of any darkness. Jesus came that we might have life, so that no more would we have to die in depression, anger, or pain. **He loved people back to life.** He would go anywhere and talk to anyone. And wherever He went, He would stop for the one – the forgotten one, the one who was rejected, outcast, sick... Even a thief who was dying for his crimes on the cross next to Him. In the Kingdom of God's love there is no sinner who cannot come home.*

- Heidi Baker

2. HIS

Illustration:

*The sovereign, electing grace of God chooses us to repentance, to faith, and afterwards to holiness of living, to Christian service, to zeal, and to devotion.”
– Charles Spurgeon*

Ephesians 1:5

*He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purposes of His will.*

Explanation:

In both our previous lesson (LOVING OUR KING), which serves as the literal precursor and theological prerequisite for this lesson (SERVING HIS KINGDOM), the two title's middle words (“OUR” and “HIS” respectfully), underscore and emphasize three Gospel relationships. To that end, see The Gospel's essential and defining miracle, Messiah, and mission (m M m), along with their unifying role between Christ, each Christian, and their shared expression, better known as Christianity... or The Church, God's family.

Take a closer look. By HIS grace and for HIS glory, OUR LOVE for OUR KING is biblical evidence of The Messiah's miracle & mission's transformation within every Christian. Moreover, Christianity's LOVE and SERVING are the missional fruit that validates the fact that OUR KING, also known as Messiah, has in fact empowered (Acts 1:8) each Christian's ability to LOVE and SERVE HIS KINGDOM. Herein, we see that true Christianity's LOVING and SERVING are supernaturally unified, indivisible, miraculous works of God within and throughout all of HIS Gospel-defined, worshipping and SERVING glorifiers.

So important and powerful is this point, that when you understand how its vertical beauty is embraced and brought out on the horizontal mission field, then, and only then, will the reader begin to believe in (and become) the power and point of OUR KING's “miraculous, Messianic, and missional koinonia.” Hence, Christianity's Savior & servants are both defined and described by the biblical theology behind our use of “HIS” and “OUR.”

In the same way that nothing can pull apart the authentic Christian's LOVING & SERVING, so it is with the impossibility of ever separating the KINGDOM's KING from HIS LOVING SERVANTS (Colossians 1:27 and Romans 8:31-39). **This is good news!**

Application:

The key to applying the “HIS” of this lesson is a matter of refinement... Becoming HIS is a miracle that takes place in the twinkling of an eye. BE-ing HIS & LOVING & SERVING as HIS KINGDOM’s citizens, as HIS family, as HIS adopted kids and Church, is a challenging mission that will last for a lifetime.

To be clear, LOVING OUR KING and SERVING HIS KINGDOM will involve vertical battles (1st Peter 5:8; 2nd Corinthians 11:14-15) and at the same time, horizontal spiritual warfare... ranging from poisonous vipers envenoming victims with false teachings (read all of Matthew 23) to wolves in sheep’s clothing, whose ravenous desire is to deceptively kill and destroy God’s flock and family, to confronting and calling out the once-trusted, now trouble-making, divisive delinquents who are trying to draw away disciples unto themselves... ***BE-ing the Church is going to BE hard & messy at times.***

Here again, applying OUR LOVING to HIS KINGDOM in such troubling circumstances as those noted above will be one of the Christian’s hardest tests (2nd Corinthians 13:5) and truest refinements. This reality is one of the reasons Jesus admonished HIS hearers to “count the cost” (Luke 14:28-29) before declaring their allegiance to Him.

Thus, whether BE-ing HIS and SERVING as HIS LOVING KINGDOM ambassadors requires proclaiming The Gospel in a hostile and persecuting world (Matthew 5:11; 10:22 and Mark 16:15), or if BE-ing HIS calls for “church discipline,” the “putting out” of church members (as Christ personally commanded in Matthew chapter 18), or if one’s KINGDOM SERVING involves the “calling out” of wrong hearted, hypocritical leaders like an Old Testament prophet (Ezekiel 33) or a New Testament Titus (1:11 and 3:15), or, finally, if BE-ing HIS KINGDOM SERVANT requires you to disconnect from and literally dis-fellowship an old friend & *“have nothing more to do with them”* (Romans 16:17-18) because they are “stirring up division” (Titus 3:10), **so be it!**

These are the tough tests, the realigning and refining times that exemplify the Christian’s application of what it means to BE HIS and biblically SERVE HIS KINGDOM. To be sure, there will be times and blessings in which OUR BE-ing HIS and SERVING HIS KINGDOM will be sweet and easy, not at all hard. But make no mistake, LOVING OUR KING as HIS KINGDOM’s SERVANTS calls for us to always be faithfully obedient to HIS Word, HIS will, & HIS ways. Whether we find such commanded commitments to be hard or easy, near or far, popular or unpopular, well received or openly rejected... true Christians persevere and stay the course (Matthew 24:13). Remember, OUR reason for BE-ing is to bring Him glory, while SERVING HIS KINGDOM. To quote Christ, Christianity calls for LOVING Him with all of our heart, soul, mind, & strength, while simultaneously LOVING our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:28-31).

3. KINGDOM

Illustration:

Our Lord holds the keys to the (KINGDOM) doors of Christian service. You don't have to chase "key-men" around if you know the Keeper (KING) of the keys! -
Vance Havner

To know the Word of God, to live the Word of God, to preach the Word of God, to teach the Word of God, is the sum of all wisdom, the heart of Christian service.
- Charles E. Fuller

How utterly terrible is the current idea that Christians can serve God at their own convenience.
- A.W. Tozer

Explanation:

The KING's KINGDOM is typically described in the Holy Scriptures as the KINGDOM of God or the KINGDOM of heaven (Matthew 6:33 & 3:2). Both of these Bible verses underscore the fact that "The KINGDOM" is ultimately defined as the active ruling & reigning of KING Jesus. Moreover, they are particularly helpful because they serve as proverbial bookends, with the first (6:33) explicitly proclaiming that we should all "*seek FIRST the KINGDOM of God,*" and the second verse (3:2) expressly declaring that everyone needs to be prepared in the END, for when Christ and His judgement will come.

With that in mind, Jesus promised that HIS blessings will be ours if and when we live and love with our ultimate priorities BE-ing to LOVE HIM and live like Him (Matthew 5:3-14), all while truly SERVING HIS KINGDOM. As for the backside of life, our Lord has made it clear that when He returns, He will filter out and even "spit out" (Revelation 3:16) the spiritual goats, chaff, & lukewarm counterfeits. Ensuring Himself to being emphatically clear, Jesus also said that He will cast out of HIS presence (Matthew 7:21-23) all the false converts. He will tear down & devastate all those who have built their lives on anything and anyone other than The Rock – our One and only Messiah (Matthew 7:24-27). Just in case that was not enough warning or clarity, OUR KING described the process further, promising to "*cast into the eternal fire*" (Matthew 25:41) "*where there will be everlasting weeping and gnashing of teeth*" (Matthew 8:12; 13:42; 22:13; 24:51, & 25:30), any and all sinners whose sins have not been cleansed by Christ's atoning sacrifice on HIS cross (John 3:16 & 3:36).

The only significance of life consists in helping to establish the kingdom of God.
- **Leo Tolstoy**

Many Christians have the mistaken notion that eternal life begins when they die. But that is not biblically accurate. Eternal life begins when we are born again into the Kingdom of God.
- **David Jeremiah**

The kingdom of God is available to you in the here and the now. But the question is whether you are available to the kingdom.
- **Nhat Hanh**

Christians were never meant to be normal. We've always been holy troublemakers. We've always been creators of uncertainty, agents of dimension that's incompatible with the status quo; we do not accept the world as it is, but we insist on the world becoming the way that God wants it to be... the Kingdom is different from the patterns of this world.
- **Jacques Ellul**

The seeking of the kingdom of God is the chief business of the Christian life.
- **Jonathan Edwards**

There can be no Kingdom of God in the world without the Kingdom of God in our hearts.
- **Albert Schweitzer**

The Kingdom of God is not a matter of getting individuals to heaven, but of transforming the life on earth into the harmony of heaven.
- **Walter Rauschenbusch**

*If the Kingdom of God is in you,
you should leave a little bit of heaven wherever you go.*
- **Cornel West**

The only way the kingdom of God is going to be manifest in this world before Christ comes is if we manifest it by the way we live as citizen of heaven and subjects of the King.
- **R.C. Sproul**

Jesus made clear that the Kingdom of God is organic and not organizational. It grows like a seed and works like leaven: secretly, invisibly, surprisingly, and irresistibly.
- **Os Guinness**

Greatness in the kingdom of God is measured in terms of obedience.
- **John Stott**

The kingdom of God, which Jesus came to inaugurate, is meant to create an alternate reality in this world, and ultimately to transform the kingdoms of this world.

- Jim Wallis

The primary reason Jesus came to earth was to inaugurate the Kingdom of God. Often, we hear that the reason Jesus came to the earth was to die on the Cross. Jesus did come to die on the Cross, but that death on the Cross was for the purpose of establishing the Kingdom of God.

- John Eckhardt

Live in the kingdom of God in such a way that it provokes questions for which the gospel is the answer.

- Lesslie Newbigin

If you have not chosen the Kingdom of God first, it will in the end make no difference what you have chosen instead.

- William Law

May God give you - and me - the courage, the wisdom, the strength always to hold the kingdom of God as the number one priority of our lives.

- Richard J. Foster

Suffering, failure, loneliness, sorry, discouragement, and death will be part of your journey, but the Kingdom of God will conquer all these horrors.

- Brennan Manning

The frontiers of the kingdom of God were never advanced by men and women of excessive caution.

- Oswald Sanders

I will place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of Christ.

- David Livingstone

Unless the church is equipping believers to embrace the values and vision of the kingdom of God and turn away from the materialism, consumerism, greed, and power of the present age, it not only abandons its biblical mandate, it is rendered missionally ineffective.

- Alan Hirsch

The life and fellowship of the church is to be a foretaste of life in the Kingdom of God.

- George Eldon Ladd

Application:

LOVING OUR KING and SERVING HIS KINGDOM is a privileged and accountable, soul-winning witness that our Lord divinely DESIGNED (see lesson #1) for HIS glory. Therefore, within Christianity, under the perfectly inspired teaching, correcting, rebuking, and equipping work of God's Word (2nd Timothy 3:16-17), we know that healthy, biblical believers should seek to learn, love, and live, BE-ing The Church as...

1. HIS LOVING & SERVING Creatures & Christians (John 1:1 & 3:36)
2. HIS LOVING & SERVING Slaves & Soldiers (Titus 1:1 & Jude 1:3)
3. HIS LOVING & SERVING Family & Friends (Galatians 4:7 & James 2:23)
4. HIS LOVING & SERVING Worshippers & Witnesses (Luke 4:8 & Acts 1:8)
5. HIS LOVING & SERVING Martyrs & Messengers (Steve & Phil in Acts 7&8)
6. HIS LOVING & SERVING Disciples & Disciplers (Luke 9:23 & Titus 2:15)
7. HIS LOVING & SERVING Ambassadors & Co-heirs (2 Cor 5:20 & Rom 8:17)

The kingdom of God is not going to arrive on Air Force One.

- Cal Thomas

The kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power, that is, in works and practice. God loves the 'doers of the Word' in faith and love, and not the 'mere hearers,' who, like parrots, have learned to utter certain expressions with readiness.

- Martin Luther

If we do anything to further the kingdom of God, we may expect to find what Christ found on that road... abuse, indifference, injustice, misunderstanding, trouble of some/all kinds.

- Elisabeth Elliot

Let us LOVE OUR KING and SERVE HIS KINGDOM by BE-ing His Church, GO-ing and making disciples who make disciples who make disciples... ALL in a local, regional, and global context, with a Christ-like commitment that brings God glory by exemplifying His Gospel and grace... with full-context, biblical, and missional truth in love – no more, no less, no matter what!

Matthew 20:28

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

CLOSE:

Hopefully, as our Come And See Christianity curriculum comes to a close, the reader has found an informing, inspecting, and inspiring place to open up and begin a new and deeper understanding of God, His Word, His will, and His ways. You now have the fundamental makings of a biblical worldview, complete with God's glorifying blueprints and bullseyes.

Hopefully, this experience has brought you and those whom you are walking with to the biblical and theological "base camp" of your own missional journey with Jesus up the Mount Everest of Christ-likeness.

To that end, I promise you, whether this is your first time through the curriculum's teaching material or if you are a well-travelled discipler who has come to master it... in the mind blowing landscape of Almighty God's unknowable heights or bottomless depths, this could and should be a base camp stop that serves as a short respite, giving you an opportunity to organize your thoughts, process what you have learned, pray, obey, and repeat.

Think about this... The tallest mountain peak in the continental United States is 14,505 feet above sea level (Mount Whitney in California). By comparison, Mount Everest's summit is more than twice that height at 29,029 feet... So what? What is the point? Here is the point. To get to THE STARTING LINE of any serious attempt to climb Mount Everest, one must reach THE BEGINNING "base camp" at 17,598 feet above sea level.

Do you see the parallel? One person's perspective could be stuck at sea level, not willing to look or venture up to the heavens where the majesty of all that could and should be in and with Christ awaits. Another would be hiker peeks up but not with the intention of seeing or climbing the peaks before them – they settle for the flat-landers awareness of the mountain's existence... but no more. Others, like you, have started the journey and made it to base camp, higher ground than countless others have ever reached. Remember, Everest's base camp, its starting line, is over 3,000 feet and 20+% higher than the most challenging elevations in the lower 48 U.S. states... With that said, sadly, many would consider reaching base camp enough. Don't do it! Don't compromise or rationalize your journey with Jesus. You HAVE made it to base camp but you are still a far way from home and your ultimate goal of a God-glorifying trek to the summit. Congratulations on making it to base camp. Now gather your next set of missional essentials and continue your ascent. Fear not. Be at peace. Your personal Guide is the Maker of Mount Everest and He has promised "to be with you ALWAYS, even to end of age" (Matthew 28:20). Amen & Amen

No man ever served God by doing things tomorrow.

- Charles Spurgeon

For What?

While God is not pleased with my sin and may discipline me in order to turn me from destructive paths and practices, His love for me does not diminish in any degree. He gave himself for my sins in their entirety, so that I might have His love in its entirety... Accepting this reality of God's unchanging regard is necessary for us to make progress in the Christian life.
– Bryan Chapell

So What?

*SERVING our King's KINGDOM... is BE-ing His glorifying, biblical Church!
Perverting KINGDOM SERVICE is perverting what it means to be His church.
Attacking His SERVANTS is attacking His KINGDOM.
May we fight for our King's KINGDOM!*

Now What?

He who does not serve God where he is will not serve God anywhere else.
– Charles Spurgeon

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:

"Unhindered"
Acts 28:31c
August 7, 2016
Sermon Series: The Way Of God