

THE COMMANDS OF JESUS TRANSFORMED BY GRACE THROUGH THE HUMILITY OF OBEDIENCE

Introduction: The Context of the Greatest Commandment!

- To love God and love your neighbour as yourself. Matthew 22:37- 40.
- Popular culture fills “love” with romantic and/or sexual feelings..
- Popular “love” is a state we fall into and out of, with or without our consent or choice.
- Popular culture hates commandments as an infringement upon personal freedom.
- Biblical love is first a choice to will and act for the better of the other at my cost.
- Thus Biblical love is first covenantal, that is, first expressed in righteous choices.
- Biblical love is patterned on how God loves.
- Biblical commandment expresses the structure of relationships which are loving.
- Biblical commandment expresses the worldview of the God who is love.
- The commandments of Jesus express the structure of how to love as God loves.
- They express how to restore hearts and relationships to be and express love.
- “Commandment” and “Love” are joined in the Kingdom of God! John 15:9- 17.
- “Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart....”, I Timothy 1:5.
- This is the foundation of the adventure of faith and love!

A/ THE CONTEXT OF THE LAST COMMANDMENT! Matthew 28:18- 20.

1. The last command of Jesus is to “make disciples”.
 - If we would do what we are commanded and make disciples....
 - Then Jesus could do as He promised and build His church! Matthew 16:18.
 - New Testament view of making disciples? Training lifestyle not classroom!
 - Each culture has the needed resource to make disciples and that is time!
 - There is no real learning without relationship! Proverbs 4:3- 4.
 - Jesus called the 12 to be with Him and to do the stuff! Mark 13:13- 15,
 - Not sequential preparation (when are you really ready?) but all areas at once!
 - Character issues get dealt with along the way to purpose. Luke 9:46- 48.
2. To disciple is to train to do until the disciple can train to do!
 - If there is no ability to act, there has been no training. Matthew 28:20.
 - You can preach to a crowd but you can only train a few. Matthew 14:22, 15:39.
 - Multiplication is more powerful than addition!
 - What if each one won and disciplined one each year and they did the same?
 - In 4 years the whole world would be Christian and Jesus would have to come back!
 - The platoon is the foundation of the army!
 - An army without platoons is a mob, a riot or merely an audience.
 - The platoon is the level of relationship, discipline and purpose.
 - The goal is to disciple nations! The goal is church planting movements!
 - Our task? Relational Integrity- love & truth, humility & encouragement!
 - His task? Building community expression that fits each culture, time and place.
 - The larger must serve the smaller!
 - Equipping (Ephesians 4:11- 12) is for the ministry of reconciliation (II Cor 5:17- 20).
 - All that happens inside is to empower to do outside! No mission? No church!

3. If Jesus has all authority, we have no excuses for not obeying Him!
 - The enemy was defeated! Hebrews 2:14- 15, Colossians 2:14- 15.
 - It is Old Covenant revelation that we walk on the serpent's head! Psalm 91:13.
 - Paul's prayer is that we have revelation of the glorified Christ. Ephesians 1:15- 23.
 - Ultimate spiritual warfare is the revelation of the Christ!

3. What are the commands of Jesus?
 - All of His teaching is commandment! Matthew 7:24- 29.
 - Obedience first (humility), then relationship! Matthew 12:50.
 - Obedience first (humility) and then understanding! John 7:17.
 - Obedience as the foundation and fruit of love. John 15:9- 17.
 - There is only learning out of relationship. Proverbs 4:1- 4.
 - Not institutional discipleship (come to the meetings) but doing the stuff now!

B/ THE CONTEXT OF THE OLD & NEW COVENANTS (TEACH & DO); Mathew 5:17- 20.

1. Christ came to fulfill the law & the prophets.
 - Grace does not replace law but grace fulfills law.
 - God's Ten words teach us His nature and our nature in His image.
 - Love fulfills the Ten Words. Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:37- 39, Galatians 5:14 & 18.
2. God's intention in the Old Covenant, was for a nation of priests, Numbers 3:12.
 - God's plan "B" was the tribe of Levi, Exodus 32:26- 28.
 - The plan is fulfilled in the New with a nation of royal priests. I Peter 2.
 - Why did the Old Covenant fail? Romans 2:28- 29, Galatians 3:10- 14.
 - Why will the New succeed? Jeremiah 31:31- 34, Ezekiel 36:26, II Corinthians 3:3.
 - Why teach? Teach that each can now know God for themselves!
3. Moral choice is the foundation of a relational universe made in the image of a relational God.
 - Not rational but relational, God is love! God is three persons in a love relationship.
 - It is a moral universe! Deuteronomy 28, Romans 8:20- 22.
 - It holds together by His word! Colossians 1:15- 17, Hebrews 1:3.

C/ RECEIVING ABUNDANCE OF GRACE.... Romans 5:17

1/ What is grace?

- Mercy is when I escape what I deserve (death) because Jesus died for me.
- Grace is when I receive what I do not deserve, life, because Jesus rose again.
- Mercy is not getting a speeding ticket I do deserve.
- Grace is when the officer gives me a hundred dollars. (Thanks Harold!)
- Grace is the power of God to change my character.
- You cannot faith people to change, faith changes things. Matthew 21:21
- Grace changes people from the inside out!

2/ How do I increase in grace? Romans 5:17

- Most could tell you how to increase faith but what about grace?

- God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble, I Peter 5:5, James 4:6- 7.
- How do I practise humility?
- The only reality which stops us from obeying the commands of Jesus is pride.
- Most of the commands involve our relationships with others.
- As I obey, grace increases and I change and reign in life.
- Obey the 56 “one another” scriptures by practising small community.
- “Bands of brothers”, are the only way you can walk out the “one another” commands.
- You cannot disciple a crowd, only a few. Jesus walked with twelve.
- You cannot disciple without opening your heart and being vulnerable.
- Impartation is more powerful than information.
- We can teach information but we cannot teach grace, it is imparted through humility.
- How do I receive “abundance of grace”?
- From the place of waiting, of simply receiving, of simply being before Him.

3/ Grace for freedom from sin, freedom from the demonic and unto healing!

- If we confess, His blood cleanses from and breaks the power of sin! I John 1:5- 9.
- If we confess, we come into the light and the power of darkness is broken.
- If we confess, the healing anointing flows to heal the damage from sin! James 5:16.
- This is not self improvement but life transformation through grace!

D/ FIRST BE RECONCILED AND THEN COME AND OFFER YOUR GIFT! Matthew 5:21- 26

1. First you must be right with brother before you can be right with God.

- God has identified with man in all things. Matthew 25:40.
- All sin is first of all against God! Psalm 51:4.
- The foundation of freedom in the New is to make restitution for violations of the Old
- Again, this is not moral improvement. This is heart transformation!
- Confess, renounce, seek His forgiveness and the forgiveness of others.

2. Restitution is to take full responsibility for your wrong choices!

- God, in Christ, took total responsibility for your sin so you could be forgiven & forgive.
- Jesus hung naked before men!
- You can humble yourself and ask forgiveness from men!
- Break the culture of victimization and blame shifting.
- Take total personal responsibility for your wrong choices.
- Total forgiveness? Yes because all sin was nailed to Jesus. Colossians 2:14.
- If all can be forgiven, then we are without excuse before Him! Psalm 130:4.
- Keep your pride and you will keep your devils!
- Breaking addiction is breaking pride. What will it be? Grace or addiction?
- Addiction is not a sickness or victimization! It is a matter of will! See Chairman Mao.

3. Disciple? Yes, make lists, walk them through, be thorough and go with them to do it.

- Real discipleship is mostly one on one! Each one teach one!
- Restitution is a multiplication of grace, a testimony to Jesus and brings other to Him.
- Asking forgiveness? Affirms the worth of the person whose forgiveness is sought.
- Seeking forgiveness draws a line of grace between the old and the new.
- Never the same again! II Corinthians 5:17.

E/ GOD'S TEN WORDS FROM EXODUS 20:1- 17:

1/ Exodus 20:2, You shall have no other Gods before me. Matthew 22:37.

- Break all wrong covenants with the occult and all false religions.
- You were made for Him! In His presence is fullness of joy, Psalm 16:11.
- Love the Lord your God with all your heart... ! Matthew 22:37.
- You cannot serve God and money, self, sex or power! Matthew 6:24.
- He does not demand your worship to satisfy His ego but to fulfill your joy in His!

2/ Exodus 20:3, You shall not make any carved images. Matthew 6:19

- Cleanse your home, person of all occult or “art” objects, jewelry, books, etc.
- Porn is the worship of sex, violence, impurity and death! Proverbs 8:36.
- Biblical Christianity is a heart relationship with God.
- You are the temple & its decorations are your thoughts.
- God is not impressed with our buildings to “His” glory, Matthew 25:40.
- What about wrong heart images of God from parents or others?

3/ Exodus 20:7, You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. Matthew 5:33-37

- Your words are to be simple, powerful, creative, like His.
- Let your Yes, be Yes and your No be No!
- You will be judged by your words! Matthew 12:37.
- The Spirit waits for the Word. Spirit and Word united equal creation! Genesis 1:1- 2.
- Spirits of darkness also wait to create with your words!
- What will you create in another person? Curse or blessing? Failure or success?

4/ Exodus 20:8, Remember the Sabbath day to keep it Holy. Matthew 11:25- 30

- This is not about holy days! See Romans 14:5- 6, Galatians 4:10.
- This is rest from our own works & entering into all God has done in Christ. Hebrews 4.
- Principle of withdrawal, dependence, waiting upon God.
- Rest is the revelation of the Father, to see Him as Jesus sees Him, Matthew 11:25- 30.

5/ Exodus 20:12, Honor your father and your mother. Matthew 15:3- 19

- God is always the Father! Psalm 139.
- Forgive, honour and bless your parents and honor God's choices for your life.
- This is the foundation of favour & blessing in life.
- If you cannot trust God with your past how can you trust Him with your future?
- There are no illegitimate children, only parents!
- Forgive others and end the blame shifting! You are responsible for your responses!
- Forgive, honour and bless and receive grace for your life!
- Cleanse your heart of wrong images of God to really know Him!

6/ Exodus 20:13, You shall not murder. Matthew 5:21- 22.

- The right to life comes from God. He is the Father of all!
- If there is no God, there is only the will to power (Nietzsche)!
- Humanistic man wants a “nice” world without God!
- In this “nice” world we do not execute murderers and rapists (that is inhumane!)

- We only kill the innocent (abortion) and the old (euthanasia)!
- Abortion? Name the child, seek forgiveness and forgive your self.
- Euthanasia? Man cannot create life so expresses godhead by taking it.
- What is in your heart? What is your attitude toward your brother?

7/ Exodus 20:14, You shall not commit adultery. Matthew 5:27- 30

- What is in your heart? The law is outward. The New Covenant is a changed heart!
- Treat each other as brothers and sisters until marriage, I Timothy 5:1- 2!
- Dating culture? Some or all of the privileges of marriage with few responsibilities.
- Courtship relationship only when you are ready for and agreed upon marriage.
- Forgiveness as husbands and wives if the relationship began in a wrong manner.
- Ask forgiveness (as given grace & opportunity) to past wrong relationships.
- Dealing with memories? Use each as a trigger for prayer! Forgive, bless, pray!
- You cannot fight something with nothing! Remember? Pray!
- Masturbation? Your body is first the Lords, I Corinthians 3:16.
- Then your body is your spouses, I Corinthians 7:4 and lastly yours.
- Sexual freedom? My own god in my own world doing as I please! It is my body!
- But God is the only being who can be one with many without it being common, unclean.
- For man and woman God says, “One partner for life”! That is sexual fulfilment

8/ Exodus 20:15, You shall not steal. Matthew 5:38- 42.

- Respect for personal property rights is the foundation of wealth creation.
- Make restitution as you have grace and opportunity. Luke 19:8- 9.
- But in the New Covenant you are to bless those who may steal from you!
- Socialism takes from rich to give to poor to create “equal result”.
- The main beneficiary is not the poor but the social engineers who administer the system.
- Biblical justice creates equal opportunity for poor and responsibility for rich.
- Do we look to government or to God to meet our needs?
- Responsibility of government is justice. Proverbs 11:1, 13:23, 22:16,

9/ Exodus 20:16, You shall not lie. Matthew 5:33- 37

- Lies are often the attempt to avoid taking personal responsibility for our actions.
- Lies are often the attempt to create another reality to impress others.
- Words create kingdom- dark or light is your choice!
- Confess, seek forgiveness, take responsibility and walk freely in truth.
- Jesus is the Word. He is oneness of being and word. We are to be like Him!

10/ Exodus 20:17, You shall not covet. Matthew 5:38- 42, 6:19- 21, 6:

- Covetousness exposes the heart condition of evil selfishness.
- Covetousness is the desire for something which is not mine!
- Covetousness is the foundation of all sin, Matthew 15:19.
- Jesus calls attention away from the literal, outward obedience to the heart condition.
- Real change is in the heart! Romans 2:29.

F/ FORGIVE, BLESS & PRAY FOR YOUR ENEMIES, Matthew 5:43- 48, Luke 6:27- 36

1/ We are not responsible for the other's wrong choices but for our responses!

- Forgiveness is not a one time thing but a decision and then a life style.
- Remember, feel the pain and then forgive, bless, pray.
- Help your disciples to make a list of folks to forgive and work through it.
- Blessing is more powerful than any curse!
- But forgiveness does not mean you must trust the other person!
- Forgiveness is given because of what Jesus did on the cross.
- Trust is earned by trustworthy behaviour over time and then given.

2/ If we do not forgive, we will not be forgiven, Matthew 6:14- 15, Matthew 18:21- 35!

- We want justice for others, but if we get justice, we all receive hell!
- We want mercy for ourselves but if we want mercy we must give mercy!
- With what measure we measure, it will be measured to us, Matthew 7:2!

3/ If we forgive we will know that we are our Father's child, Matthew 6:45, Luke 6:35

- To act like Him, is to be like Him.
- Forgiveness is not a feeling, it is a decision.
- Forgiveness is a command with a promise, to be like Him!
- Identity, as a child of God, is a gift from God to the obedient!

G/ SEEK, ASK, KNOCK AND YOU WILL FIND, RECEIVE AND ENTER, Matthew 7:7- 12!

1/ Does my Father only give good gifts?

- We seek, ask & knock for life/fish and fellowship/bread.
- Often we receive curse/snake and rejection/stones!
- Our choice, believe the circumstances or believe the Father?
- Our choice, throw the stone back or forgive, bless, pray and turn stones into bread?
- We are not responsible for the choices of others but for our responses!

2/ My choice releases the power of the cross to transform death into life, curse into blessing.

- “You meant it for evil but God meant it for good”, Joseph, Genesis 50:20!
- Your choices create your life message, transforms you into bread to feed others.
- Your choice to throw the stone back leaves another stone on the ground.
- Your choice to forgive, bless, pray releases your destiny in God!

H/ REJOICE IN TRIBULATION, Matthew 5:11- 12!

1/ For great is your reward in heaven!

- Do you have the perspective of eternity? Romans 5.
- Persecution is a condition for kingdom growth! I Peter 4 (especially 1, 12, 13, 19).
- God is not committed to fulfilling the “American Dream”! II Timothy 3:12

2/ For Jesus has all authority (which means satan has none)!

- Worship at midnight, jail house rock and release for Paul & Silas. Acts 16:25- 26
- But in Paul's years in prison, the word was not bound. He still speaks today!
- “Apostle” Stalin and the church of Central Asia- satan did not have the last word!
- “Apostle” Mao and the church of China- satan did not have the last word!
- What attitude do your disciples see when you are in difficulty?

- The Father & Jesus are jealous over the Holy Spirit in you which means an open heaven.
- Can anything come between the desire of God for God in you? Romans 8:31- 39.

3/ Coming to Jesus may make your life more difficult!

- The perspective of James under trial, “count it all joy”, James 1:2- 5.
- Arm your disciples with the same mindset, I Peter 4:1- 2.
- Jesus did not promise to make life easy! Matthew 10:16- 40.

I/ BE SALT, BE LIGHT AND LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE MEN, Matthew 5:13- 16

1/ Biblical love is not just a feeling. It is serving people and meeting needs. It is visible love.

- We cannot say we love God if we do not meet needs, I John 3:16- 19.
- God identifies with the poor. To serve Jesus is to serve the least, Matthew 25:40.
- The only difference between the sheep & the goats what they did or did not do!
- Worship can go out of balance! The bride and the bride groom is just one metaphor!
- Worship (as an experience) without obedience becomes unclean sensuality.
- “If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love”, Jesus (John 15:10).

2/ Discipleship is training to do. Your disciples will do exactly what you do.

- Find where the church is not and be church there.
- Men do not care what we do inside the walls of our buildings.
- How will they glorify God by what we do if we do not go to them and do something?
- Men do not care what we believe until they believe that we care.
- Your job is not to find a community that meets your needs!
- Your mission is to establish community for those who do not have it!

J/ PRACTICE A HEART RELATIONSHIP NOT A RELIGIOUS SHOW, Matthew 6:1- 18!

1/ Pray, fast & give in secret that the Father who sees in secret may reward openly!

- Performance religion is rewarded by the recognition and honour of men.
- Religion is special time, special place, special people doing special things.
- All the “specials” create a show for an audience who pays for the show.
- Beneath all performance and legalism is impurity and perversion, Matthew 23:25- 28.

2/ The condemnation of Jesus was not for the sinner but for the religious showmen:

- Those of you who worship here do you worship and pray at home?
- Those of you who teach here do you teach your children?
- If you cannot disciple your children, how can you disciple the nations?
- Those of you who pray here, do you pray with your spouses?

3/ True relationship with Jesus has responsibilities:

- To be responsible for your own relationship with Jesus, to be a self feeder.
- To be responsible for your own family.
- To be responsible to multiply that life through your circles of influence.
- The main job of a pastor is not to feed the sheep but to lead them into mission!
- Every disciple a discipler, every house a church.
- To multiply disciples, churches, simple church networks & apostolic teams.
- The ministries and teams come out of the church life!

- Everything that happens in the large must serve the small or it becomes a show.

4/ Finance & Giving in the New Testament Teaching and Example:

- Was primarily for the poor, Matthew 19:21, I Cor. 16:1- 3; II Cor. 8:4, 14; 9:1- 15.
- But travelling ministers have a “right” to support, I Corinthians 9:1- 18.
- But Paul did not always use it and gave an example of self-support, Acts 20:32- 35.
- Paul thanked the Philippians for supporting him. Philippians 4:10- 19.
- Jesus commanded a man to sell all and give to the poor! Matthew 19:21.
- Zacheus volunteered to give half to the poor and restore four fold. Luke 19:8
- Jesus was ministered to by wealthy women who followed Him. Luke 8:3.
- The point? Whatever the Master asks! There is no formula.

5/ Prayer in the New Testament Teaching and Example:

- Was primarily conversational. Listen to Jesus in Matthew 8:3, John 11:41- 43.
- Was for boldness! Listen to the apostles in Acts 4:24- 31.
- Was for boldness! Listen to Paul, Ephesians 6:18- 20.
- Was for revelation of our place in Christ. Ephesians 1:15- 23: 3:14- 21.
- True spiritual warfare is the revelation of the Glory of Jesus!
- There is not special gift or ministry of intercession. Romans 8:26, Hebrews 7:25.
- We all pray “without ceasing”, ie, the flow of our spirit because we are all priests!

6/ Fasting in the New Testament Teaching and Example:

- Jesus expected fasting would be common once He left. Matthew 9:15.
- Fasting was a normal part of church life. Acts 13:2, 14:23.
- Paul speaks of fasting as a normal part of his life. II Corinthians 11:27.
- John Wesley would not ordain anyone who did not fast Wednesday and Friday.
- Consider these verses- I Corinthians 9:27, I Peter 4:1- 2.

K/ DEAL STRONGLY WITH HEART ISSUES OF IMPURITY, Matthew 5:27- 30!

1/ Biblical Spirituality is simple and based in a right heart relationship with Jesus.

- The pure in heart will see God, Matthew 5:8.
- God is simple but profound- love, fire, wind, holy.
- Sin makes things complicated and superficial.
- Religion substitutes knowledge and public performance for revelation and obedience.
- Beneath religion is impurity and perversion, Matthew 23:25- 28.
- We either live by grace or addiction, Romans 5:17!

2/ How do I deal with impure thoughts and memories?

- Discipline what you watch! Remember the saying “garbage in garbage out”!
- Use every impure thought/memory as a trigger to pray for the person/people involved.
- You cannot fight something with nothing! Replace the negative with the positive!
- Pray for their salvation, for their dreams, for their families and loved ones.
- Pornography exists by reducing the person to body parts.
- Prayer restores the person to the image of God for whom Jesus died!

3/ Spiritual Warfare is not out there or up there. It is in the mind and heart!

- Jesus said that satan had nothing in Him! John 14:30
- Strongholds are in the mind! II Corinthians 10:3- 6
- The fight is the fight of faith. Do you believe circumstances or the cross? I Tim 6:12

L/ DO NOT WORRY ABOUT MATERIAL NEEDS BUT SEEK THE KINGDOM, Matthew 6:25- 34

1/ Worry is lack of faith in the ability of God to provide. Worry is fear of the future!

- Take the lesson from the birds and the plants!
- Focus on God's ability and power!
- Spiritual focus! Magnify the Lord or the problem? Psalm 25:17, Romans 8:6.

2/ Seek the Kingdom first and His righteousness!

- What is the Kingdom? It is not the King! It is not up there or out there
- The Kingdom of God is His people. The Kingdom is here.
- Seek the Kingdom? Seek the best for your brothers and sisters!
- Seek His Kingdom? He identifies with the least! Serve the least! Matthew 25:40.
- His righteousness? His justice for the least!

3/ And all will be added unto you!

- Fulfil the command and receive the promise!
- The nature of the Kingdom is giving & receiving. Give and it will be given to you!
- Promises are released through faith and obedience (Not need)!
- You take from your present and sow into your future so you do not fear the future!
- The sowing and reaping of II Corinthians 9 is all about sowing into the poor saints!
- What do your disciples see you do?
- John Wesley, "Make all you can! Give all you can! Save all you can!"

M/ RAISE THE DEAD, HEAL THE SICK, CAST OUT DEVILS, Matthew 10:8.

1/ Supernatural service is not an option, it is a command!

- We do not ask Him to do it, He commands us to do it!
- Faith changes things!
- Faith releases the anointing & gifts of the Spirit, the power of God to change things.

2/ Remember what God has done, Psalm 103:1- 3 not Psalm 78:41 & 42!

- Remembrance of His past works seeds His works in the future!
- Remembrance and thanks for past works feeds faith for future works.
- Focus on what God has NOT done creates an attitude of unbelief and limits God!

3/ We are the inheritors of "all things"! I Corinthians 3:18- 23. John 16:15. II Cor. 1:20.

- Human loyalty (I am of Paul...) limits our inheritance to things of the flesh!
- All things (Paul, Apollos, the world, life, death, present, future) are yours!
- This word to the individual? Yes! But total fulfilment is to the whole body.

4/What is the place of brokenness, waiting, difficulty? II Corinthians 4.

- That is the desperation that cries, "Only God!"
- That is the paradox of the treasure in the earthen vessel!

- “That the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” II Corinthians 4:7

N/ DO NOT CALL ANY MAN FATHER OR TEACHER, Matthew 23:6- 12.

1/ Jesus called His disciples “friends”, John 15:12- 15!

- If anyone deserved a title, it would be Jesus yet He levelled the field to “friends”!
- In the heavens, He raised us up to sit with Him, Ephesians 2:6.
- He is not ashamed to call us brothers, Hebrews 2:11.
- Why do we create hierarchies, positions and titles?

2/ Peter's revelation in Acts 2 is also expressed in 1 Peter 2:1- 10.

- All ages, genders and classes are to prophesy the words of God to their generation.
- We are a nation of royal priests under one High Priest.
- God's desire for a nation of priests is fulfilled in the New Covenant.

3/ Paul's revelation is that Christ is the glory of every man. I Corinthians 11:3.

- We are one in Christ, bound or free, male or female, Jew or Gentile, Galatians 3:26- 8.
- We are all to participate in the normal meetings of the body, I Corinthians 14:26.
- He does not take authority over their faith but helps their joy, II Corinthians 1:24.
- He is Paul, the apostle, the slave, the prisoner but never Apostle Paul.
- “Apostle” means sent slave, the most expendable in the house, the least valued.
- Those sent on journeys in that day (without armed escort) often did not return.
- “Apostle” was not the highest but always the lowest slave in the household.

4/ John's revelation is that we do not need any man to teach us, I John 2:27, Jeremiah 31:34

- We have an anointing which abides in us and that anointing is True!
- We have one shepherd whose name is Jesus and His sheep hear His voice, John 10:27.

5/ Five Fold leadership is foundational and lays the foundation of Christ, I Corinthians 3:10- 11.

- It is not hierarchical. It is not “over”. Titles do not create spiritual authority!
- It is not positional. It is functional and identified by fruit.
- It is foundational and holds the body up to Jesus, the Head.
- It is catalytic and creates the atmosphere and opportunity for growth.
- It is inspirational and calls out “Follow me as I follow Christ”.
- Biblical order is not the result of delegation and submission (all religions have that!).
- Order is the result of each member hearing and obeying Jesus, the Head of the body!
- Leadership is influence, example and exercises authority by consent.
- Leadership as the exercise of power destroys those leading and those being led.

6/ All biblical, living Truth in Jesus, the Word made flesh, is truth in tension!

- “Submit to your leaders” is the one polarity, Hebrews 13:7 & 17, I Peter 5:9,
- “Submit to one another” is the other polarity, Hebrews 13:1, I Peter 5:9,
- Emphasis of one without the other is truth out of balance which is error!
- We must hold to both at the same time!
- All of the relational order of Ephesians 5 & 6 is preceded by Ephesians 5:21!
- All of the relational order of Colossians 3:18- 22 is preceded by 3:12- 17!
- First responsible? Be first to love, to confess sin, to ask forgiveness, and to serve.

O/ TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, DENY YOURSELF AND FOLLOW ME, Matthew 16:24- 27.

1/ Deal with the nature of sin, deny your “right” to your self!

- Satan's ideal man is not the broken man in the gutter. That man knows he needs help!
- Satan's ideal man is the self made man who does not know that he needs help.
- Self determination, independence, self sufficiency, pride is the nature of sin.

2/ My desires, dreams, joys are not evil, Psalm 37:4!

- God created me and filled me with dreams, gifts- all good! Psalm 139:13- 16.
- He created me anew in Christ and renewed my personality, II Corinthians 5:17.
- Do I do all I do as worship unto Him or for myself?
- The purpose of the cross was not suffering but the joy set before, Hebrews 12:2!
- Giving up my right to myself is not about suffering but about oneness with God.
- In His presence is fullness of joy, Psalm 16:11!
- He made us to find fulfilment in Him. The same joy that He knows in Himself!

3/ If following Jesus leads to suffering, we are to rejoice! Matthew 5:12.

- His grace is made perfect in weakness. II Corinthians 12:9
- His glory is revealed in suffering. Romans 8:18.

P/ PRAY FOR LABORERS AND BE SENT AS LABORERS, Luke 10:1- 10

1/ Pray the Lord of the Harvest to “send out labourers into His harvest”!

- The problem is not the harvest! It is white. It is ready.
- In John 4 Jesus saw white fields where the disciples saw hard ground.
- The problem is the vision of the labourers and their willingness to go.
- “Send out” means “to throw with force”!

2/ Go into the harvest field!

- Religion wants people to come to them where they are in control and comfortable.
- Attractional (come to me!) church or an obedient going to them?
- No farmer stands in the barn and calls to the crop, “Come in wheat!”
- We are to go where they feel comfortable and in control.
- We are the ambassadors, we are the risk takers, we are the sent ones.

3/ Leave your knapsacks behind and go directly to the man of peace!

- Leave your cultural baggage behind.
- You are not to make proselytes, that is, folks who do everything the way you do.
- You are to take nothing but let the new believer dress up Jesus in their culture.
- Ministry is always Incarnational- the Word becoming Flesh!
- Every culture is a means of communication to those in that culture!
- Although not every item can be redeemed!

3/ Bless the house!

- Is your attitude such that not yet Christians feel blessed or do they feel judged?
- Do you genuinely love and enjoy people or are you just doing a job?

- 4/ Eat and drink what is set before you and thus show cultural acceptance.
 - Showing cultural acceptance is your entrance into their community.
 - Remember eastern culture views eating and drinking as a act of covenant!
 - Religion accepts into community only after agreement on belief.
 - Religion says believe first, change behaviour and after that, I will accept you.
 - Jesus was persecuted for being a “friend of sinners” by eating and drinking with them!

- 5/ Heal the sick, meet practical needs, be a servant!
 - The kingdom of God is not in words but in power, I Corinthians 4:20.
 - Faith, not in words but in demonstration of the Spirit & of power, I Corinthians 2:4.

- 6/ Declare the Kingdom!
 - The last item on the agenda is the why of what we do.
 - Belonging, behaviour, belief!
 - Community, demonstration, declaration!

- 7/ Do NOT go from house to house!
 - When you find a man of peace, stay with him.
 - Disciple him in context until he can multiply disciples from HIS house.
 - Do not bring him to your house, do not take him out of his relational context.
 - He may come to your house but his family and friends probably will not.
 - Teach him to be the pastor of his family and friends in his own house!
 - Multiplication is more powerful than addition!
 - Start a Church Planting Movement!

Q/ WAIT UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT! Acts 1:8.

- 1/ None of this works without the ministry of the Holy Spirit!
 - Jesus told His disciples it was better for them that He left, John 16:7.
 - Indwelling presence is better than outward physical presence!
 - This fulfils God's plan for a people living from the heart, not coerced from without.

- 2/ This Holy Spirit power will make you martyrs (lives laid down) unto me!
 - Not a grim determination but a joy unspeakable and full of glory!
 - Not an attempt to try harder but a river of living water flowing out of your being!
 - Not self help but a power to rejoice for the privilege of suffering for His name!

- 3/ This is the fulfilment of the New Covenant of Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36.
 - The law written on the fleshy tables of the heart.
 - The Spirit given which would cause us to walk in His ways.
 - Not man teaching man but God teaching every man.
 - Man knowing God through forgiveness and oneness not mere principle & precept.

- 4/ It is better for you that I go away so that I can send the Holy Spirit. John 16:5- 15.
 - Conviction of sin? Not bad things that I must stop! Not sins of the hand and the law.
 - The sin of the heart of not believing in, relying upon and trusting only Jesus.

- Pride, independence, self sufficiency are the root of all the sins.
- Conviction of righteousness? Not more good things that I must do!
- Conviction that Jesus is my righteousness (even though I do not see Him)!
- Conviction that righteousness is not what I do but who I embrace!
- Conviction of judgement? Not that I am judged!
- Conviction that Satan is judged and that therefore I am free!
- Religious spirits make me feel guilty, drive me to do more, condemn & shame me.
- The Holy Spirit convinces me of Jesus, of my righteousness & my freedom in Him!
- Religious spirits focus on the externals, demand conformity and exercise control.
- It takes the Holy Spirit to expose the issues of the heart!

APPENDIX ONE; THE THREE QUESTION MEETING

It is clear that most of the above is for one on one discipleship. What happens when we move to a simple church gathering?

The only New Testament instruction as to how to conduct a meeting is given in I Corinthians 14:26 which says that each member should contribute something. The other instruction may come from Ephesians 4:15- 16 which indicates that only by “speaking the truth to one another in love” and “effective working by which every part does its share” does the body mature. If each member does not participate they and the body does not grow up into Christ!

How do we encourage total participation? Do we sit in silence until something happens? That might mean that again, only a few participate! What about a three question meeting to release the “one another commands” of the New Testament?

1/ What has God done? Let each person share of the acts of God in their life in the past season. This releases faith in the group. “If He had done it for you, He can do it for me!”

2/ What is happening in your heart and how can we pray for you? This takes trust, vulnerability and humility and releases the gifts of the Holy Spirit as we minister to one another.

3/ What is happening with your mission to family, friends, colleagues? How can we help? How can we pray? What practical needs can we meet?

This is testimony, ministry and mission. This kind of meeting does not require an expert! At the end of such a meeting, each person in the room should be able to say, “I can do that!” This does not work because we are smart or gifted. It works because we humble our selves before each other and honor Jesus in the midst and the Head of the Body.

