

STEWARDSHIP LIFE AND GROWTH #2

WHAT DO I SEE FOR OUR FUTURE.....

THE INTIMATE NATURE OF WHAT GOD HAS CALLED US TO....

Col 3:12-17 (NIV) Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,

- clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. [13]
- Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.
- Forgive as the Lord forgave you. [14]
- And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. [15]
- Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.
- And be thankful. [16]
- Let the message (logos) of Christ dwell among you richly
- as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom
- through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, sing to God with gratitude in your hearts. [17]
- And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Identity (God's chosen people holy and dearly loved) (Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts)

- **That we will know and live in the fullness of His incredible love for us**
 - o **Foundational need for ALL other Characteristics**
- That we will approach God as a loving father who is not mad at us – wants to honor us
 - o That we will approach Jesus as a beloved friend and bride – wants to partner with us
- PEACE OF CHRIST
 - o Allow Jesus to give us his peace = not take on the anguish of the world around us

Character (clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience)

- **That the FRUIT of the Spirit (God's Character) will be evident as a lifestyle**
 - o producing compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness & patience
- **Humility** – Have to cultivate it every day... One success can topple it
 - o Believing that any part of what God is doing in/ through your life is really you
 - o Mus
- **CHARACTER (Fruit) IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN GIFTS**
 - o The list of Gifts in I Cor. 12 is impressive....
 - o I Cor. 12 – gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, discerning of Spirits, tongues...
- **Character is Essential for Gifts to be effective...**
 - o 1Co 13:1-3 (NIV) If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries (wisdom) and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. [3] If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Culture of Love, Acceptance, Forgiveness (Bear with each other and forgive one another) (Put on Love)

- **That Love would be the hallmark of our fellowship – “see how they love one another”**
 - o Joh 13:34-35 (NIV) "A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. [35] **By this everyone will know that you are my disciples**, if you love one another."

- Love = nothing to lose, Acceptance= Nothing to prove, Forgiveness = Nothing to Hide
- Forgiveness is a make or break spiritual reality
 - o We cannot be connected with God who forgave us and disconnected from others
- No bridges burned, no one who we cant talk to
 - o Nothing to lose, nothing to prove, nothing to hide

Thankfulness (And be thankful)

- **That we would practice thankfulness (without fail) for everything that God provides**
- **Being thankful to God for what he has done**
- 3 Times a day – at meals
 - o Thanking God no just for food but taking time to thank God for what He does for us
 - o Changes Chemistry in our heads
- Worship – In spirit and in truth
- **Being Thankful to others**
 - o Thanks to others, changes our hearts, makes us mindful of how we need each other
 - o Thanks to others, opens doors to care and minister to others.

Carry the Word of God (Let the message (logos) of Christ dwell among you richly) (teach and admonish)

- **That the word of God would guide all aspects of belief, life and practice**
- The Bible is not a book to be studied only
 - o The focus of Bible Study is knowledge
 - o Goal: Learn - Get all the information in your head
- Meditation is the way to interact with the word of God
 - o Meditation on the Word of God provides rich encouragement and vision
 - o The focus of meditation is gain inspiration and revelation
 - o Goal: Transformation – Allow God to wash us and make us holy (set apart) for partnership
 - Eph 5:25-26 (NIV) (Husbands, love your wives, just as) Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her [26] to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

Mutual Ministry (as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom)

- **That we would freely and humbly Teach (share) and Admonish (counsel) one another**
 - o 30 One to another ministry commandments
 - o Priesthood ministry – Loving others as Christ loved us
- Our meetings would have more than one “prophet” – instruct one another
 - o In our home groups we encourage, comfort, teach and counsel one another

Worship Culture (psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, sing to God with gratitude in your hearts)

- **That Our large group gatherings always include worship to God**
- That our songs would be intimate worship and adoration
 - o That our songs be led of the Spirit (spontaneous worship) = “songs from the spirit”
 - o That our songs be celebration of who He is
 - o God is expanding our worship – Worship Nights on Tuesday!

The Name of Jesus (“name of Jesus” – according to the will and authority of Jesus

- To understand what is Good and what the Lord requires of us (Micah 6:8)
 - o Mic 6:8 (NKJV) He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?
 - o **WHAT IS GOOD = (Logos word)**

- Live according to the Written word of God
- To live in the pattern of Biblical righteousness and holiness
 - Refrain from sin – keep short accounts with God
- **WHAT THE LORD REQUIRES = (Rhema word)**
 - Live according to the RHEMA word of God
 - What is he saying to you...
 - Mat 4:4 (NKJV) But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.
 - THE RHEMA WORD comes by humbly seeking His face...
 - This friendship with God produces great peace and strength
 - Keeping pure maintains this openness and relationship with God
 - Sinning becomes distasteful and undesirable
 - “Pleasure of sin... for a season” is real..

Growing and Multiplying REAL and EFFECTIVE small groups

- Meeting every week
- REAL MUTUAL MINISTRY –

Ministry Teams

- Teams of people who support and conduct ministry to others
- A shift from being consumers to being members (those who receive and provide)
 - Getting rid of the 80/20 mentality
 - Taking ownership in ministry to others

With Resistance (that is coming)

- Moving toward others in the body rather than away
- It is expensive to move toward others
 - Vulnerability – Can’t dress up and go to church.. Have to show up when you need help
 - Work – “not my will but yours be done” = caring for others rather than self
 - Conflict (It’s easy to watch other people on computer screen.. Hard to be face to face
 - Selflessness (The mindset of Jesus) Phil. 2 “have this mindset that was in Jesus.. Humbled, made himself nothing..”