

Rooted

The Motivation for Discipleship

Colossians 3:1-4

October 25, 2015

Discipleship: training in Christ-likeness.

I. IF THEN... (vss. 1-2)

- If we have truly been raised to new life in Christ, that new life will have a new ambition (2 Cor. 5:17).
- Our seeking should be for things above, not for the things that are, by contrast, from below (Matt. 6:16-18; Phil. 3:7-9; Heb. 13:13-14).
- Christ is not literally in a seat next to God, but he is figuratively and actually in a position of power and honor (Psalm 110:1; Matt. 22:41-45; Luke 22:66-71; Acts 7:55).

II. A LIFE HIDDEN WITH CHRIST (vs. 3)

- To be a Christ-follower is to be raised from the dead. We were buried in baptism and raised to a new life (Rom. 6:1-11).

III. APPEARING IN GLORY (vs. 4)

- Our hope is in a future with Christ, consummated at his return (Luke 23:43; John 17:24; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 22:4-5).

IV. IMPLICATIONS FOR US TODAY

1. Discipleship is about forming Christ in us (Gal. 4:19).
2. Discipleship is about forming Christ in others (Gal. 4:19).
3. Discipleship is about setting clear priorities (vs. 2).
4. Discipleship is about all of life (Matt 10:34-39; Rom. 6:11).
5. Discipleship is about dying daily (Luke 9:23-26).
6. Discipleship is about living a full life (Rom. 11:33-36).

KNOW: We need to pursue holiness and seek things that are above because of our new identity in Jesus Christ.

DO: Live for Christ. Teach others to do the same.

Suggested Reading:

To the Golden Shore: The Life of Adoniram Judson, by C. Anderson

The Pursuit of Holiness, by Jerry Bridges

Daring to Draw Near, by John White

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Colossians 3:1-4

1. Can people really change their fundamental identity as the Scripture teaches? Can we really be “born again?” How does the world answer this question?
2. Paul says that change is not only possible, but necessary. If you consider yourself a Christian, how has your life demonstrated this radical change? How did your life yesterday exemplify it?
3. How do we seek things from above when we have to live day to day in this world below? What does that actually look like?
4. A Christian takes God’s side against his/her sin, while a non-Christian takes his/her sin’s side against God. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
5. Do you look for opportunities to disciple others? What does that look like? If you have children, do you disciple them?
6. What does it mean to die to yourself? How would you describe that to a non-believer?