

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP CURRICULUM

Week 34 - August 19 through August 25

TODAY'S LESSON: "Growing Up Spiritually"

TODAY'S PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 3:1-9 NLT 1 Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. 2 I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, 3 for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? 4 When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world? 5 After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. 6 I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. 7 It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. 9 For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

INTERACTIVE QUESTION: What did you learn from what we just read?

1) Spiritually immature Christians are carnal Christians.

- *Carnal Christian:* one who knows the things of God, yet is still characterized by the flesh in some significant ways
- Although a carnal Christian has the Holy Spirit, they are not behaving like spiritual people, but like carnal – that is, fleshly -people, like immature Christians (babes in Christ).
- The difference between milk and solid food is one of degrees, not kind. Every doctrine that can be taught in seminary can be taught to children, though not in the same words.
- The problems carnal Christians have in human relationships shows there is something wrong in their relationship with God. It is evidence of carnality, of a fleshly way of thinking and living.

INTERACTIVE QUESTION: Let's be honest, how would you rate your spiritual maturity? On a scale of 1-10, why?

2) Spiritually mature Christians keep their eyes on Jesus.

- Paul and Apollos were not the ones they believed in for salvation; they only brought Jesus to them. They are through whom they believed, not on whom they believed.
- Christian workers have different jobs and see different results, but God is the one who gets the work done. Only God... gives the increase.
- Real fruitfulness in ministry happens when we are peacefully content with what God has called us to do.
- When a farmer plants a seed and waters it, he really does not make it grow. The miracle of life does that. All the farmer can do is provide the right environment for growth, and trust in the miracle of life. We do the same thing in ministering Jesus to other people.

INTERACTIVE QUESTION: Can you share a story where you were used in just planting the seed of the Gospel and another when you were part of the harvest of someone giving their lives to Jesus?

3) The Ministry is about teamwork, not a competition.

- The fact is that planters and waterers are both necessary. Both need each other. Both are working towards the same goal.
- The same can be said between churches, ministries to even individuals. We are also God's fellow workers: God gives us the amazing opportunity to work with Him.
- We cannot work without Him, and He will not work without us (generally speaking). God wants you as His working partner.
- When you consider all the ways God could have done His work, it is even more amazing to know He wants our participation.

INTERACTIVE QUESTION: Is there a ministry that God has called you to be a part of? If so, what is it?

CLOSING QUESTION: What is one thing from today's lesson that you will apply this week?



It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Acts 20:35 (NLT)

And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Encourage everyone to give their tithes and offerings.