

ADULT SS
BACKGROUND &
PURPOSE

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While we don't "walk an aisle" or focus on "praying a prayer," where do you think we can apply using right biblical commands for wrong focuses of repentance and faith? (here's what you need to do if you want to be right w God; what characterizes right guilt vs. wrong guilt; right focus versus wrong focus when repent; right focus when believe/live by faith vs. wrong focus?)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What did you hear? What separated nominal Christians from genuine ones?

- You can have a good life thinking “Christian” without Christ
- Mass delusion
- Must know our source of happiness
- Just because you “have Christ” in you life doesn’t mean He is in the right place
- Shows lack of discernment of Church regarding salvation of “members”

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Ben Lacey talks about “carrying our cross” leading to fruit that is cross-shaped. What does he mean? What would this include? OR **If we died with Christ and were raised to new life with Him (Col. 3:1-2), how could you identify that life?**

- Leadership Changed, Not on own anymore
- Focus changed from event (i.e. Prayed a prayer) to ongoing life (daily taking up cross)
- For Christ → His agenda taking place—single-focused/minded
- Continuing repentance showing evidence of Holy Spirit in life
- Constantly checking spiritual mirrors and the front windshield
- Ps. 27:8 - Seek His Face
- Awareness from eternal perspective
- Not merely “use me Lord”, but make me useful
- All that thrills my soul is Jesus
- Leaving joy/happiness when inconvenienced/unfair (suffering)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Ben Lacey talks about “carrying our cross” leading to fruit that is cross-shaped. What does he mean? What would this include? OR **If we died with Christ and were raised to new life with Him (Col. 3:1-2), how could you identify that life?** (Continued)

- When we find “what it takes” to follow, see “Lordship issue”
- Follow the motives beyond the works
- Not negative when things that make Christ happy are what makes us happy
- Freedom to operate without “fear” of earthly “tragedies”
- When identify/join with Christ, it All matters, therefor devil’s tool, when we live like it doesn’t matter or that it changes according to your needs

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

If this “cross-shaped fruit” is lasting and eternal, what are the implications for us individually/as churches if we’ve focused on other fruit? (Where will actions be focused, how will we feel, what is valued and therefore must be maintained/protected? How could we perhaps unwittingly contribute to the problem of producing wrong fruit even while we are trying to fix it?)

- Focus will be on us (our works), Doing focus rather than being/relationship
- Too much of focus on being accepted by others/how do I fit (Col. 2:20); therefore, constant comparison
- Individual preferences lifted up – not generational sharing
- Service – loose thought of ministry, but we never get there; start right, then regress
- Chaos – as opposed to unity of spirit for purposes Christ as head of church intends for Body (what works for one doesn’t work for me, possible jealousies)
- This will bury the mission of glorifying God
- Phil. 2 – Jesus came with “lowly status”, we are unwilling to reconsider

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Man-centered theology

- Focus on what “I want”
- He shifts according to our circumstances reality
- We bring Him down
- Failure to have God as center leaves us powerless to hold all in check

Me-centered relationship

- Helping each other get what we need so think God-centered relationships but end up self-centered

- Both these have us as end – between us & ideal is judgment with God as end – ideal is impossible but forces us to look to Him & His resources
- Danger – when we so want to know & grow that we look for what is relevant & understandable instead of asking what He meant or He sees
- Love God gospel gives what is need to love – from this we do

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Wrong methods seeking the biblical necessities of repentance and faith function as the devil's version of Robin Hood—they give assurance to people who shouldn't have it, and they steal assurance from people who should. NOW, what comes to mind as to perhaps where we are well-meaning, but have bought into other values as seen by how we encourage people in the church and what we stand against?

- Dangerous if seek to change circumstances without looking for heart change
- Effort necessary to change focus – settling for less than what God wants (examine results of effort and don't settle for spinning wheels)
- Dangerous to seek full solution right away when imperfect people try to help people live up to perfect law – must sit in it, inside relationships
- Watch focus merely on “fixing” (1, 2, 3, Done) without focusing on relationship (first with God, then with them) – John 17:3
- Try to flesh out the body before we even have the skeleton of where we are going (foundation for relationship with Christ)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What would it look like inside the church for us to shift this focus toward cross-centered fruit? (i.e. What will our feelings/life look like as we address the change in focus to get “cross-shaped fruit”? What will discipleship/growth individually/as churches include that perhaps we are hesitant to accept?)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

He said, if we want to see revival coming from the Spirit of God, we must preach the Word and pray. **What should be preached? God's holiness, man's sinfulness, Christ's righteousness, and then a call to carry the cross.** Where was the hope for John Bunyan when he was grieved by his sin?

What keeps us from focusing there when we feel the weight of our sin and what is the result? How will these four themes preached lead to revival from the Spirit of God?

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What thoughts cross your mind about our individual and corporate responsibility with the Lord's Table and Baptism? (not merely what is the problem, but how should the definitions of these studied and strengthened actually promote healthy churches AND protect against nominalism and unholiness; **how has your view of Lord's Table and Baptism shifted?)**

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

A love for God and a love for others will lead to 5 distinct things that go together. **Discipling, Evangelism, Raising up leaders, Church Planting, Missions.** What is the root of these five things (the “germ” he talks about)? What do we need to do to foster this root in our lives individually and as a church?

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

A love for God and a love for others will lead to 5 distinct things that go together. **Discipling, Evangelism, Raising up leaders, Church Planting, Missions** How do these five things **TOGETHER** result from a love for God and love for others? Why will there be a culture of raising up elders and leaders if men, women, boys, girls follow Jesus and teach others to follow Jesus?

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Underlying Assumptions/Goals in Adult SS for church as whole:

- 1. We must shift our focus from personal maturity and growth to building healthy churches.**
- 2. We must focus on the roots, not merely the fruit.**

“SKELETON AND FLESH OF THE CHURCH” APPLIED PT. 9

CBC, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

IF we do NOTHING else together, the Collective People of God must:

- I. Worship God Together.** Romans 15:5-6
- II. Grow Individually and Corporately with a Growth that Comes from God.** Eph. 4:15-16
- III. Protect/Defend the Name of God—His character and Eternal Purposes.** II Tim. 1:13-14
- IV. Own the People in the Particular Expression of the Body of Christ where God has Placed you.** I Cor. 12:18, Eph. 4:16
- V. Spread the Glory of God** Hab. 2:14, I Pet. 2:9

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

We have looked at public worship services, relationships, growth, culture, now finally, What would need to be lifted up/allowed if want to build healthy churches with strong roots in **faithful service**?

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What IS service? What do we usually think of as service in the church?

- Practical necessities to worship
- Ministries (roles)
- Serve- should be other than you – willing to do whatever
- In-church, outside
- Talents – given by God – He decides where & how
- Giving, discipling, peacemaking, conversation, personal care – are all service
- Sacrifice - time, preferences, time displaying what has been given/honed
- Normally, we find gifts, plug people in
- Scripture calls us to stimulate others to good deeds
- Prayer
- Service demands patience

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What does Numbers 4:1ff, 16-19, 22ff, 29ff., Romans 12 do for guiding our service inside the church?

- Temporary, so repetitive, specific
- Assigned
- Leaders/ Servants
- Prescribed order w/ serious consequences
- Deviating from responsibilities brings consequences
- Part of whole – part is NOT whole
- Show up (be on duty, be where God is working)
- Called to do (reasonable service) NOT what you get out of it
- Rom. 12 – must be personally applied and held accountable
- Balance – all service tied to Rom. 12:1-2

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

What does Numbers I Peter 4:7-11 do for guiding our service inside the church?

- V.7 - In the sphere of prayer (communion)
 - V.11 - God words/strength for Godly service
 - V. 1 - Arm yourself with the same purpose as Christ – suffer, you are in a dangerous situation, pay attention
 - V. 12 - Conflict & our response test our faithfulness in service
 - Need character to head this way – this character must come from yielding to the Spirit
- What causes Burnout:
 - Self-sufficiency
 - Earth bound goals
 - Overwhelmed by world
 - Identity with present circumstances rather than faithfully owning our part in God's Work
 - Disenchanted from wrong expectations (i.e. repetition of ordinary)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Through the lens of these two goals, what were some of the changes hoped for by intentionally changing the goals during our *Future Grace* study leading to an 8 year study of that book? (longer studies over the years preceding)

ADULT SS BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that **you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;**

Philippians 1:27

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² **make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.**

Philippians 2:1-2