

## Who We Love For — And the Difference it Makes

One of the greatest ways to INSIST that others know the source of your life is by letting God's truth govern you, and not the circumstances of each day. Jesus did not allow the enemy to govern His life. No! He loved, did good, blessed, prayed, gave, offered, and was always kind and merciful to the unthankful and evil people of this world. When you allow His truth to lead you, and not the response or attitudes of others, you will be identified as children of God. Now as this happens... you want to INSIST that they know why you are the way you are.

At times they'll desire to know why you live with such hope, joy, and gladness... because they'll see your contentment and peace. And when you live to know Him and make Him known, you'll INSIST that they know the source of your hope and righteousness.

Faith comes by hearing... therefore, you must be intentional to tell your story and the beauty behind the principle that governs your life. YOUR LIFESTYLE IS NOT ENOUGH... it's used by the Lord to OPEN the door for you to speak. And apart from intentionally communicating with those who observe your life, you cannot lead them to the One who made you a mouthpiece for His glory. You must INSIST that they know His name, what He, by His grace has done for you, and what He's done for them, too. It will bring GLORY to the LORD... and richly bless them and their lives!

Oh, glory... may it be that goodness and mercy follow us... all the days of our lives. Be strong, my friends, and be a very courageous mouthpiece for the King.

This is just an aid to some of the principles I've highlighted through the years and emphasizing the last several weeks. We talked about it last night and I wanted to share it in written form with each of you. This is an excerpt (with a little editing) from last Wednesday's teaching. I haven't edited last night's time in the word. I'm still working on it. Blessings...

"...And people will always be people until God does something different WITHIN them. Who SEPARATES us from this world we live in? Jesus! And what are some of the dynamics that He's consistently doing in us to SEPARATE us from the world that we live in? The following are five things that are happening in the believer's life that will DISTINGUISH us from the world we live in:

Number one, GOD REVEALED something to us. GOD must REVEAL it to us — just like He did with Noah. We need to hear from the Lord. Hearing is seeing. Seeing and hearing is having God's light on that which is dark without His light. Noah heard from the Lord therefore he had the light needed to be a difference maker and it distinguished him from everyone else in the world. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. And that's the second thing. Whatever is going on in our life, that ain't of God,

God's GRACE REMOVES it. Remember, that which isn't of grace ain't of God. The darkness that we functioned in must be removed by the light. Grace is the only way God deals with us. It's on the merit of One (Jesus) who did trust and fulfills the righteousness of God that God can and will justly remove the hindrances of our pride, rebellion, and enmity to the truth. His grace teaches us to say NO to ourselves and YES to Him. And then, their third dynamic, God's GOODNESS, His character, and way, REPLACE it. And, fourth, God's GUIDANCE shows us what to do next — just like He showed Noah how to build that ark for the saving of his household. He will graciously guide us. And His GUIDANCE transforms our mind and RENEWS, again and again, for the work He's graciously given.

So, whether it be forgiveness, you know, GOD must REVEAL it, GRACE has to REMOVE the offense or the bitterness or the pride, His GOODNESS must REPLACE it. And then He GUIDES us on how to reconcile, therefore, RENEWING us for the work given. And the fifth dynamics is GRATITUDE. A GRATITUDE that continues to REFRESH us through the good and bad to be able to gladly reach out to reconcile a world to the Redeemer and redeemed, that we lovingly and joyfully serve, a world of hostiles that don't see eye to eye with us. We serve Him gratefully so that we can work among and live on mission in a world living without Jesus and His far-reaching grace. How? Because GOD'S REVEALING, GRACE is REMOVING, GOODNESS is REPLACING, His GUIDANCE is RENEWING us from day to day, and a deep-rooted GRATITUDE continues to REFRESH us to be winsome through the process. Now we're in a position to be joyful peacemakers so that we, by God's authority and anointing, may reconcile an unbelieving world to Jesus.

It doesn't matter what we face, or what we've been called to do, those five dynamics are always going to be involved in what we do, and that's going to SEPARATE us from a world that God hasn't revealed these things to; grace hasn't removed anything from them and his goodness, hasn't replaced it, and his guidance isn't renewing them. And gratitude is not at work for them to be reconcilers and peacemakers for the glory of God. And you can see that it separates us in and for every aspect of the kingdom life..."

We see this brought to light in the parables of Luke 8, Matthew 13, Mark 4, and John 12. Hearing is seeing in the kingdom of God... and His words are an illuminating revelation. And without them, we are in the dark. And those without Jesus and His message live in the dark. We must not live like them — if we're to have any kingdom influence upon them.

Let's be what He's saved us to be... and there's no way we can do it on our own. We need each other...

Can I share one of my favorite passages in the Bible? It's found in the following verse... I just love this thought and the purpose of Christ, it explains why He did what He did when they left for the

garden and Golgotha that night.

"But THAT the world may know THAT I love the Father, AND as the Father gave Me commandment, SO I DO. Arise, let us go..." (John 14:31)

So I do ~ Jesus! He did what He did out of LOVE... and that love was for His Father. And of course, this love overflowed toward us... but at the core of His obedience and sacrifice was His love for the Father.

So I do ~ Jesus! And the AUTHORITY that He lived by was always based on a command/word from His Father... His life was rooted in and the result of knowing, loving, trusting, obeying, honoring, and glorifying His Father.

Jesus was MOTIVATED by love and the MEANS to accomplish His assignment was always based on a command... the command is WHAT gave Him the power/authority to do what He did. And His love for the Father is WHY and HOW He remained loyal through everything that challenged the command.

There must always be a command/word FOR God's people to have power/authority to accomplish the assignment AND love FROM God's servants to remain loyal to His word and assignment. So I do ~ Jesus in us!

Motive and means... Those who love are those who listen, and those who listen are those who follow the lead of the one they love. So I do ~ Jesus in me!

#nestingwithjesus #Luke #luke6 #lukeand27thru36 #GodmustRevealit #GracemustRemoveit  
#GoodnessesmustReplaceit #GuidancewillRenewus #GratitudewillRefreshus  
#soidoisreservedforfamily #soido #jesus #john14 #loveandloyalty #motiveandmeans #thegarden  
#golgotha #HelovinglylayedHislifedown #myexampleisHe #christinmethehopeofglory  
#reservedforfamily