



HEBRON

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Dr. Landon Dowden

THE GOSPEL COMMUNITY IN THE COMMUNITY (Part 2)

Romans 12:15-16 (ESV)

I. LIKE CHRIST, WE ARE TO EMPATHIZE WITH OTHERS

- a. The Gospel calls us to be involved in the lives of others (Gal 6:1-2, 10)
- b. Two commands:
 - i. Rejoice with those who rejoice.
 - ii. Weep with those who weep
- c. What keeps us from obeying this text? Bitterness, Jealousy, Vindictiveness, Selfishness
- d. Why would the Gospel Community do this?
 - i. This is what Jesus did (John 11:35)
 - ii. This is what Jesus does (Heb. 4:14-16)
- e. APPLICATION QUESTIONS:
 - i. How involved are we in the lives of others?
 - ii. Are there people who it would be difficult for us to rejoice with or to weep with?
 - iii. Is Christ's sympathy for us producing concern in us for others?

II. LIKE CHRIST, WE ARE TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH OTHERS

- a. Living in harmony means to "think the same thing." (Rom. 15:5; Phil. 1:27; 2:2; 4:2; 1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor. 13:11)
- b. The closer we are to God the closer we will be to one another.
- c. As much as possible, we should seek to "get along" with others, but never by forsaking God's Word.
- d. People were drawn to Jesus.
- e. We who've received much grace should lavishly extend it to others.
- f. APPLICATION QUESTIONS:
 - i. Would anyone view us as cranky?
 - ii. Would anyone view us as argumentative or disagreeable?
 - iii. Would anyone have no desire to fellowship with us because of the little they have seen already?
 - iv. When the Gospel Community is unlovely it does no favors for the Gospel.



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III. LIKE CHRIST, WE ARE TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE LOWLY

- a. To “associate with” means “to be carried away by/with.”
- b. We are called to be carried away with lowly things or lowly tasks or lowly people.
- c. Phillips: “Don’t become snobbish but take a real interest in ordinary people.”
- d. Mounce: “The admonition is to get off one’s high horse and come to grips with reality. There are both humble tasks and ordinary people who need our attention.”
- e. James 2:1-7
- f. 2 reminders:
 - i. Never forget what we were like without Jesus. (1 Cor. 1:26-29)
 - ii. Never forget with whom Jesus spent time. (Matt. 11:19)
- g. APPLICATION:
 - i. Do we actually view anyone else as “beneath” us?
 - ii. Are we really willing to associate with everyone – even if they are a bit socially awkward?
 - iii. Are we spending time with the same kinds of people that Jesus did?

IV. LIKE CHRIST, WE ARE TO BE HUMBLE

- a. Morris: The person who is wise in his own eyes is rarely so in the eyes of other people.
- b. Rom. 12:3
- c. Look to Jesus (Phil. 2:5-8)
- d. How to Weaken Pride and Cultivate Humility (From *Humility* by C. J. Mahaney)
 - i. Always:
 - 1. Reflect on the wonder of the cross of Christ.
 - ii. As each day begins:
 - 1. Begin your day by acknowledging your dependence upon God and your need for God.
 - 2. Begin your day expressing gratefulness to God.
 - 3. Practice the spiritual disciplines – prayer, study of God’s word, worship. Do this consistently each day and at the day’s outset if possible.
 - 4. Seize your commute time to memorize and meditate on Scripture.
 - 5. Cast your cares upon Him, for He cares for you.



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- iii. As each day ends:
 - 1. At the end of the day, transfer the glory to God.
 - 2. Before going to sleep, receive this gift of sleep from God and acknowledge His purpose for sleep.
- iv. For special focus:
 - 1. Study the attributes of God.
 - 2. Study the doctrine of sin.
 - 3. Laugh often and laugh often at yourself.
- v. Throughout your days and weeks:
 - 1. Identify evidences of grace in others.
 - 2. Encourage and serve others each and every day.
 - 3. Invite and pursue correction.
 - 4. Respond humbly to trials.

V. **BY GOD'S MERCIES, OUR RESPONSES TO OTHERS ARE TO REVEAL CHRIST'S CHARACTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL**

- a. Our purpose in responding to others as we are called to do so in Romans 12 is not just for the good of others but also for the gospel.
- b. Opportunities for revealing our transformed way of thinking and living are also opportunities for gospel proclamation.
- c. We respond differently because Christ is making a difference in and through us.