



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.