



6:30pm Bible Study: Pastor Chip Luter

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Getting Back In The Habit: Essential Spiritual Habits for Every Devoted Follower

Tonight's Spiritual Habit: Biblically Authentic Christian Community

Opening Discussion

- How would you define the word "community"?
- What are good examples of healthy "community"?
- How has this pandemic impacted your rhythm of "community"?

Biblical Foundation

- Key Text: Hebrews 10:24-25
- Key Principles: 3 Words That Describe Biblically Authentic Christian Community
 - **Intimacy** – We grow in Christ and with one another the more we are together.
 - **Inspiration** – We uplift one another on purpose with divine purpose.
 - **Influence** – We pursue good works because of the encouragement of other like-minded believers.
- Why should we prioritize biblically authentic Christian community?
 - Our Creator eternally **exists** in community. (Genesis 1:26)
 - We are divinely **designed** for community. (Genesis 2:18)
 - Our faith is primarily **practiced** and **developed** in community.
 - Acts 2:42-46; Ephesians 4:1-16, 25-32; 5:15-21
- Why do some Christians neglect community?
 - Intentional Isolation (Proverbs 18:1-2)
 - Isolation comes from **restrictions** based on personal preferences.
 - Isolation comes from **misconceptions** based on flawed perspectives.
 - Inconvenience
 - Fear
 - No models or examples
- What are the blessings and benefits to living in community?
 - Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
 - Support, strength, and safety
 - James 5:13-16
 - Help, hope, and healing

Practical Application – How To Build Biblically Authentic Christian Community

➤ Key Relationships Every Christ Follower Needs To Have:

- _____ – Father (Mother) of the Faith, disciple-maker, mentor, teacher, and trainer
 - Philippians 1:14, 18-26
 - Purpose: _____ you and serve as model and example of where your faith can and should grow.
- _____ – Brother (Sister) of the Faith, co-laborer in ministry, encourager, uplifter, teammate, accountability partner
 - Acts 4:36; 9:26-27; 11:19-30; 13:2
 - Purpose: _____ you and partner with you to help you maintain and thrive in your Christian walk.
- _____ – Son (Daughter) of the Faith, disciple, apprentice, trainee, future leader.
 - 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2-6, 13-14; 3:14-15; 4:5-18; 1 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 2:19-22
 - Purpose: _____ the Kingdom of God through spiritual replication and multiplication.

➤ Suggested Actions To Consider:

- **Evaluate.** What is the current condition of your relationships? Ask the question, “Am I living in biblically authentic Christian community?”
- **Pray.** Ask for the Lord’s wisdom and courage in seeking all three of the key relationships mentioned above.
- **Invite.** Seek the counsel of a wise believer you trust to share honestly with you which of the key relationships you may be lacking at this time.
- **Be Honest.** If you have a deeper issue that requires counseling, be honest with yourself and get the help you need.

Is It Possible To Be Christian Without Church? (From the Wesleyan Christian Advocate)

Question: Can I be a Christian without joining the church?

Answer: Yes, it is possible. It is something like being:

A student who will not go to school.

A soldier who will not join an army.

A citizen who does not pay taxes or vote.

A salesman with no customers.

An explorer with no base camp.

A seaman on a ship without a crew.

A businessman on a deserted island.

An author without readers.

A tuba player without an orchestra.

A parent without a family.

A football player without a team.

A politician who is a hermit.

A scientist who does not share his findings.

A bee without a hive.