**DISCUSSION STARTER:**



## Discipleship Groups

Sermon Dates:

**May 27 & 28, 2023**

**Butch Gastfield**

Scripture Text

***Various***

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Growing up, who was the primary disciplinarian in your household—your mother or your father? How would you describe their style: strict and rigid; patient and tolerant; passive and non-directive; something other than these? If you are/have been a parent, did you find yourself parenting in a similar way to your upbringing or something quite different? Why or why not?

**DISCUSSION/REFLECTION:**

Have you noticed any ways in which your understandings of your Heavenly Father have perhaps been influenced by your experiences with your earthly parent(s)? Have the earthly experiences opened up positive avenues of understanding God’s love and grace or have they possibly created barriers to your acceptance and responses to that love and grace? If you find you have an unbalanced viewpoint, how do you go about correcting it?

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

*Read Romans 7:14-23*

* What problem, common to us all, is Paul describing in the passage?
* Is this a battle that non-believers experience?
* Where does the ultimate source of our human weakness lie?

*Read Romans 7:24-25*

* Can you identify with Paul’s sense of despair here?
* In what can that despair lead to a positive response on our part?
* Is his conclusion he reaches here a solution to our problem, or a description of an eternal battle being waged?

*Read Romans 8:1-4* and *2 Corinthians 5:17*

* How, specifically, does the lack of condemnation and the spiritual life we have in Christ relate to any daily performance agenda we might have?
* In what ways does it free us?
* What is the new power we have and how does it counteract the behavior issues discussed in *Romans 7*?

***Sermon Point*** *1*



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***My Life in Christ Requires Me to See Life Differently***

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

*Read Galatians 2:20*

* How do you explain the paradox of this verse that says: “it is no longer I who live” and the same time, “the life I now live”?
* How do we live out this new identity we have?

*Read John 15:1-8*

* What would a full definition of the word “abide” include?
* If vine branches are human lives, what sort of pain might be associated with pruning?
* What promise is contained in *vs.4* and how does it pertain to the perspective Butch mentioned?
* What does *vs.7* point to that is the channel for our perspective?
* What has our “fruit” to do with our perspective?

***Sermon Point 2***

***My Life in Christ Requires Me to Set My Mind on Christ***

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

One of the comparisons Paul uses in his discussion of our new life is the “putting off” or “putting on” our new identify as one would do with clothing.

*Read Colossians 3:1-17*

* How much contrast exists between the “clothes” of our earthly nature (*vs.5-11*) and those of our new life in Christ (*vs.12-17*)?

Butch mentioned three specific actions we can take to come to know Christ more fully and grow into His image:

* Listen to Him through His Word
* Talk with Him (in prayer)
* Practice what He did (apply the Spiritual Disciples and learn from mature disciple

**GROUP PRAYER**

Close your time together by praying for one another to remain faithful in our journey of transformation.