

THEME: COST OF CHEAP GRACE

DISCIPLESHIP PRACTICES FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

VARIOUS SCRIPTURES

08.22.23.2020

“How does discipleship occur in our everyday lives?”

Galatians 5:16 But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and **you will not gratify the desires of the flesh**. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, **to keep you from doing the things you want to do**. ¹⁸ But **if you are led by the Spirit**, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, ²² drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do ²³ such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control;

I. ACKNOWLEDGE THE NEVER ENDING WAR INSIDE YOU.

Romans 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, **but not the ability to carry it out**. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

EXCERPT TAKEN FROM THE BOOK: THE COST OF CHEAP GRACE (PAGE 164) by Bill Hull

Spiritual practices always carry with them a discovery of our weakness and our inability to transform ourselves on our own. They indeed carry their own sort of suffering. They make us confront ourselves. They reveal our inflated view of ourselves. They reveal how small and insufficient we are and how self-absorbed we can be.

These discoveries are painful. But in the weaknesses they expose, we are given a chance to trust God's love, to marvel that God chose us when we are so unworthy.

Robert Mulholland says that spiritual practices (or disciplines) are a way of cracking our false self. Once the false self is cracked, our true self, created in the image of God, can break through. Paul said we are transformed by contemplating God's goodness with our own faces unveiled.

We are transformed as we contemplate with unveiled faces, or uncovered presence, when we allow God's glory to reach us not as we think we should be but as we really are.

Transformation happens, when we drop our pretense (who we wish we were) in the light of His presence (Who He actually is).

This is our mission as a church: ***"To love people into a real relationship with Jesus Christ."***

REAL stands for:

Realize the Cost
Embrace His Commands
Align Your Will to His
Love Others into a real relationship with Jesus Christ

II. ENGAGE REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect (HOW) in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

III. BOAST IN GOD'S POWER AND GOODNESS.

2 Timothy 2:3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. ⁵An athlete is not crowned unless he **competes according to the rules**. ⁶It is the **hard-working farmer** who ought to have the first share of the crops.

1 Corinthians 9:24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control,^[a] lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

IV. PRACTICE DAILY SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES:

Here is a sum up of the disciplines taken from the Cost of Cheap Grace book...

- Solitude and Silence
- Prayer
- Scripture
- Sabbath
- Simplicity and Fasting

Poem: "Praying In The Bathroom."

*I like to pray in the bathroom
When I shower or run the water
Or make of it the necessary room it is*

*It's not a sacred space
Though of course we learn that every space is sanctuary
Everything a burning bush*

*It's just that
With my hair askance from sleep
My indefatigable cowlick defiant
And my body bulging with new creases
Showing its age as I sit or stand or wash
It seems so much easier to say, with Abram,
"Here am I
And yes, I have nothing figured out
Not today, tomorrow, or yesterday"
And I have learned to say that it's all okay
And that heaven then unfurls all around me
Weightless in my unclenched fists*

*These words-"Here I am"
Make it so much easier to pray
Make it possible, perhaps,
Since prayer's prerequisite is dropping pretense
And becoming honest
Standing in our nakedness*

Enough Said. Let's pray!