

Discussion Questions: Focus
How? – Core Values – 1 Corinthians 11:1, Galatians 5:22-23

Drawn from the October 6, 2024 sermon by Dr. Jeff Chandler

Opener: We talk a lot about “becoming more like Jesus”. How has your involvement at SCC or another church helped you realize this aspiration?

The SCC Missions statement reads: *Responding to God’s love by inviting people to join us as we become more like Jesus.*

Today’s study will help us answer the “How do we do this?” question. Ask someone to read the following passages

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” 1 Corinthians 11:1

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23

The example we set, empowered by the Holy Spirit, helps us grow to become more like Jesus. We believe the following “Core Values” help us find our focus.

A. People who have yet to meet Jesus matter to Him and to us.

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” Luke 5:30-32

Your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. Matthew 18:14

1. What do these verses convey about God’s compassion and care for people?

B. The Body of Christ is reflected best in a community of all ages. We're better together.

Things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. Psalm 78:3-4

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ... In fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 1 Corinthians 12: 12, 18

2. What is one thing someone from a different generation has taught you about faith?

C. We are servants, empowered and equipped for ministry by God.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:7

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:4-5

Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13

3. What does it look like to become mature and attain the whole measure of the fullness of Christ?

D. Worship will be biblically informed and culturally relevant.

“Stand at the gate of the Lord’s house and there proclaim this message: “Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the Lord.” Jeremiah 7:2

The true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. John 4:23

I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

4. What are some of the challenges of staying Biblical in our worship yet also relating to our current culture?

E. Loving relationships should permeate every aspect of our life together.

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:34-35

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16

5. What are some unique things you may be able to contribute to SCC that would encourage loving relationships?

F. Becoming like Jesus happens best in small groups.

Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles. Luke 6:12-13

They continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. Acts 2:46

6. What can we learn from the example of how Jesus called the disciples and what they continued to practice after he rose again?

G. We honor God and inspire others with our excellence.

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

7. How has something done with excellence been an inspiration to you?

Group Prayer Time:

Give thanks for the example of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Pray that group members would follow in His footsteps, embodying love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Pray that our lives reflect God's grace and truth, inspiring others to seek and follow him, becoming more like Jesus.

For personal reflection in the group or on your own:

A. What ways can you actively follow the example of Christ in your daily interactions with others?

B. Which fruit of the Spirit do you feel you need to cultivate more in your life, and how can you begin to do so?

Next week, October 13, there will be discussion questions available in "Downloads" on the SCC website.