

Journey in Discipleship

Year One: What Do We Believe??

Year Two: What Do We Do??

How do we practically live out what we believe

How do you meet Jesus personally?

Key Word: **Meditation**

How do you meet Jesus with others?

Key Word: **Worship**

How do you relate to other Christians?

Key Word: **Member**

How do you relate to those who hurt you?

Key Word: **Forgiveness**

How do you relate to your neighbor in
need?

Key Word: **Justice**



How Do You Relate to Your Neighbor in Need?

Micah 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? **To act justly and to love mercy** and to walk humbly with your God.

Displaying the character of God

...we are to be a people who put mercy and love in action as we pursue justice

Psalm 82:3 Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless;
maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.

Gospel Neighboring

Eg. William Wilberforce



How Do You Relate to Your Neighbor in Need?

Why Is Gospel Neighboring so Important?

When God is rightly worshiped, His people will work for justice

When God is rightly worshiped, the church will have a sensitive social conscience in a life poured out in deeds of mercy & justice for the poor, oppressed, marginalized, needy

Why???

- The Messiah we worship has a commitment to the physical world
- The Messiah we worship will restore a physical world...in justice righting all wrongs, destroying all evil & restoring perfect beauty in the new heavens and earth

Gospel Messaging is reinforced with Gospel Neighboring



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“If I am right, then in a sense paganism did indeed ‘topple over dead’ during these epidemics, falling victim to its relative inability to confront these crises socially or spiritually...My thesis – central doctrines of Christianity prompted sustained, attractive, liberating and effective social relations and organizations.”

Rodney Stark, The Rise of Christianity



How Do You Relate to Your Neighbor in Need?

What Does Gospel Neighboring Look Like???

Isaiah 58:6-7 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"

Direct Relief to meet physical, material, social needs (*Luke 10:30-35*)

Social Reform which moves to change social conditions & structures
(*Job 29:17; Jer. 22:13; Amos 8:2,6; Deut. 24:17; Lev. 19:35-37*)

Community Development



How Do You Relate to Your Neighbor in Need?

Gospel Neighboring...a Warning & a PROMISE

WARNING...

The gospel message is NOT do good and God will take you to heaven

PROMISE...

Isaiah 58:8, 10 Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard...and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

The practical, sacrificial commitment of the community of believers to mercy & justice is a powerful proof of the transforming power of the gospel and the glory of God



How Do You Relate to Your Neighbor in Need?

Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed.
Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.

The modern, suburban church has to learn because our approach to Christianity is very individualistic & consumeristic

How do we learn???

Isaiah 58:9 Then **you will call**, and the LORD will answer; **you will cry** for help, and he will say: Here am I. "If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,

Prayer & Gospel Neighboring

