

October 10/11, 2009
Growing Deeper in Love with God

Deep relationships with people and Christ don't just happen. There has to be...

- 1) a desire for ever increasing closeness
- 2) a willingness to do whatever it takes to go deeper
- 3) a tenacious holding on to one another when it's hard to do

We see all three of these in the Apostle Paul's relationship with Christ! Once he knew the surpassing value of knowing Christ he was hooked on going deeper and deeper! *Philippians 3:1-16*

How to Grow More Deeply in Love with Christ:

1. Believe in the surpassing value of knowing Christ deeper and refuse to substitute things of lesser value

Philippians 3:7-8; John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 13:11-12; 1 John 5:21

2. Passionately pursue what Christ wants to passionately give you.

a) Increasing Intimacy with Him...

b) Mighty Power Experiences

c) Opportunities to Share in His Suffering

That's what Paul pursued, and Christ gave him the desires of his heart.

Philippians 3:10-11; Psalm 37:4; 2 Corinthians 12:2-4; 2 Corinthians 12:6-10; Acts 19:11-12; Acts 16:22-26

We can have what Christ gave Paul if we want it like Paul wanted it. Here is how to get it!

- 1) Keep a daily appointment with Christ and come hungry to hear what He has to say.
- 2) Believe what He tells you and do what He tells you to do.
- 3) Develop mutually igniting Christ-centered friendships that fire up your love for Christ.
- 4) Take advantage of growth opportunities like Life Tracks, Focus Groups, Celebrate Recovery, Freedom in Christ.
- 5) Try new ministries to see what fits you and how you can best serve Christ.
- 6) Go on local and global mission trips to experience His power and even share in the sufferings of others.
- 7) Do everything you do with Him.

3. Press on to possess the prize of fulfilling your calling in Christ. Knowing and living your calling fills your life with love, excitement, satisfaction, growth opportunities and resurrection power experiences. It also fills your eternity with joy and rewards.

Philippians 3:12-16; 2 Timothy 4:7-8; Revelation 22:12

The Holy Spirit wants to give us increasing clarity about our unique calling. He knows how desperately we need it to grow deeper but we must press into it. *Proverbs 29:18; Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 6:22*

Knowing Your SHAPE helps clarify your calling.

S- Spiritual Gifts

H- Heart Passions

A- Abilities and Talents

P- Personality

E- Experiences

You can grow deeper and deeper in love with Christ if you desire it with all your heart and pursue it daily.

Growing deeper is worth it!

Philippians 3:8

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What practical step will you take to grow deeper in love with Christ?
- 2) How clear is your calling to you? Do you know your SHAPE?
- 3) Do you need to stop doing anything so you have more time to draw close to Christ?