

GOING THE DISTANCE

The Way of Salvation

Text: Mark 7:1-8, Ephesians 5:25-32

Plain Truth:

The heart of the law is _____ and it cannot be kept apart from _____.

Review:

- 1) We were created in the _____ of God.
- 2) The result of the Fall was human _____ but not tee-total _____.
- 3) God went after Adam and Eve to _____ them—Preventing Grace to _____ Grace.
- 4) Our image of God informs our self-image.
 - a) _____ Grace
 - b) Convicting Grace
 - c) _____ Grace
- 5) Our _____ of God can empower the renewal of our _____.
 - a) Justifying Grace
 - b) _____ Grace
 - c) _____ love is possible through God's radical _____.
- 6) Loving ourselves as a reflection of God's image.
 - a) _____ Grace
 - b) _____ Grace
 - c) Presenting our spouse _____ and _____ is the expectation not the _____.

February 23 & 24, 2019

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February 23 & 24, 2019

Life Group Lesson

Week of February 24

The Way of Salvation

Read: Ephesians 5:25-32

Further Study: Genesis 1:26-27, 3:1-9, Ephesians 4:22-24, Romans 6:4-24, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Goal: To know there is hope of restoration in any relationship. As image-bearers of God, we can become initiators of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Before the Video

- When a friendship or marriage blows up, do you think people have hope that the relationship can be restored? Do they have the necessary tools they need to reconcile?

After the Video

- In “Preventing Grace” God pursues us and initiates reconciliation. Name a time in the past when you initiated reconciliation. What was the outcome? Why is it important to be willing to take the first step?

Digging into the Bible

- We are God’s image bearers. (Genesis 1:26-27). Dr. Kyker says, “We are more like God when we give and when we forgive.” Read Genesis 3:1-9. Why did Adam and Eve hide from God?
- Notice God takes the first step toward reconciliation when He looks for Adam and Eve and asks, ‘Where are you?’(v9) – since that moment, the Enemy has attempted to use shame and fear to hold us captive. And yet, God through Christ breaks through all darkness. When did God come looking for you? Where did He find you? How has the love of Christ shed light upon your life?
- We are no longer to let sin control the way we live. We can, instead, being to “live under the freedom of God’s grace” (Romans 6:12,14). How is living under the freedom of God’s grace better than being in bondage to sin? How is the Lord honored when we choose to ‘live under the freedom of God’s grace’?

Going Deeper & Action Steps

- Write down the name of a person you need to reconcile with. Pray for the person, then take the first step to begin the act of reconciling love. To listen is to value the other person realizing that we will not always agree but we can honor one another.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with God’s sanctifying grace to love others as God has loved you. Confess any error or sin on your part so healing can occur (see James 5:16). This is the ‘Way of Salvation’ that reconciles us to God and to one another.

Prayer Time - Pray for courage that a new work of God begins in you as you take the next step.

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