

Review from Sunday's Message for Personal Meditation:

- i. Disciples who make up the Church are to be devoted to: (a) the Word of God, (b) the fellowship of God's people, (c) remembering Jesus, and (d) prayer. (Acts 2:38-42)
- ii. It's dangerously possible for Christians to subtly disconnect the preaching of God's Word and the fellowship with God's people from the rest of their life. (Just like it's possible to watch ESPN almost daily and not know much about the world of sports.)

While the Ephesians believers were known for their good works and patient endurance, they had drifted away from their first love and needed to repent and return to their prior devotion in order not to lose their light. (Rev. 2:1-7)

- iii. It's vitally important to be active listeners of God's Word and active participants with God's people in pursuing unity and maturity in the faith.

On being an active listener and participant:

- a. We can come together with the expectation of learning from God's Word.
 - b. We can anticipate talking with someone about what we have heard.
 - c. We can incorporate what we are learning together into our personal devotional life.
 - d. We can review what we have heard with others, eager to learn and applying truth to our life.
- iv. The dangers of disconnecting the devotion of the church with the rest of life:
 - a. We become hearers and not doers of the word, and we end up deceiving ourselves. (James 1:22-25)
 - b. Our lives will not have a foundation that endures. (Matt. 7:24-27)
 - c. The church will not properly build itself up in the faith and minister to one another in love. (Eph. 4:1-16)
 - v. The response of Immanuel Bible Church:
 - a. The Word of God is preached.
 - b. There is published a daily Bible reading schedule that corresponds to the preaching of God's Word.
 - c. There is a weekly email containing a review of the message and a supply of additional questions for meditation, application and group fellowship.
 - d. There are groups that regularly meet to discuss God's Word and fellowship around it.
 - vi. The spiritual life of the church will be determined by the spiritual life of the active members. Walking in agreement with God and with one another is vital for spiritual life and cooperation.

Questions for Reflection, Application and Fellowship:

- i. Are the Bible studies you are engaged in growing you in your knowledge of God, your knowledge of His Word and your faith in His promises?
- ii. How important are other believers in your devotional life (them to you and you to them)?
- iii. In what ways can you strengthen your listening abilities?
What strategies will you put into place to keep you thinking, applying and sharing the truth of God's Word?
- iv. Jesus said that everyone who hears His words and puts them into practice will be like wise people who build their house on the rock. Are you *building* on a solid foundation? Are there people around you doing the same?