

Growing Together Discussion Questions from Sunday's Sermon – Sept 22, 2013

(For Personal Study, Review, Meditation and Mid-Week Group Discussion)

- I. **Getting to know you ~ Questions for Group Discussion:**
 - a. As children we used to play the game called *Follow the Leader*. Did you like to be the leader or the follower? Why?
 - b. Joseph Stowell said: *“Relating successfully to Christ begins by relating to Him as followers. He doesn't relate to us on any other turf.”*
 - i. What are some of the benefits of simply following Jesus?
 - ii. What are some of our barriers to simply following Jesus?
- II. **Getting into the Bible ~ Points from Sunday's Message:**
 - a. Who We Are: ***We are passionate God-pleasers who joyfully follow Jesus!***
 - i. **Our Purpose: To Please God**
Our purpose and our passion is to bring God pleasure by believing His Word and doing His will in the power He provides for the praise of His glory on earth and in heaven.
 - ii. **Our Vision: Jesus!**
We are disciples of Jesus Christ, growing in knowledge, faith, grace and obedience, who are committed to making disciples, who go into all the world and make disciples, for the advancement of the glory of God and for the joy of all people.
 - b. Scripture: **Luke 14:25-35; Matthew 10:37-39**
 - c. Three Marks of A Disciple:
 - i. Jesus is their first love – they love Jesus over all other relationships.
 - ii. Jesus is their highest loyalty – they pick up their cross and follow.
 - iii. Jesus is their supreme Lord – they give up everything and follow.
- III. **Getting into Life:**
 - a. How is being a disciple of Jesus influencing your primary relationships – spouse, children, extended family, friends, etc.?
 - b. Disciples pick up their cross and follow Jesus. Our cross is any burden we carry for simply associating with Jesus. Each disciple has their own, unique cross to carry.
 - i. What cross are you carrying for following Jesus?
 - ii. What cross have you laid down that you need to pick back up?
 - c. J. Oswald Sanders defined discipleship this way:

“A disciple is a learner or pupil who accepts the teachings of Jesus, not only in belief but also in lifestyle. It involves the acceptance of the views and practices of the Teacher. It involves learning with the purpose to obey what is learned.”
Based on the Scripture given above (Luke 14; Matt. 10), how might you alter Sanders definition?
 - d. What is the difference between calling yourself a “Christian” or calling yourself a “disciple”?