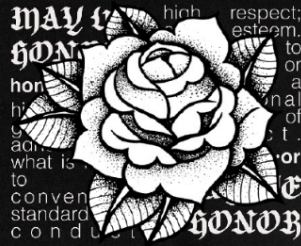


MAY WE HONOR GRADUATES



Community Bible Church Sermon Discussion Questions: May 21, 2023 Pastor Ed Newton

Title: Your Next Level

Text: *“Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”* (1 Timothy 4:11-12)

Target: Don't see the next level in your life as a position, place, or a promotion, but instead a pursuit of the best version of you.

Icebreaker: *What are your top two favorite movies and why?*

1. **Consideration of the Limitations:** *“Let no one **despise** you”* (Vs. 12a)
 - a. **Recognize your Worth:**
 - i. **Let NO ONE Despise you:** “to think against, disesteem, think little or nothing of”
 - ii. **Let GOD Define you:** *“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.”* (Isaiah 43:1)
 - b. **Remove the Weights:**
 - i. **Prohibitions:** External factors that prevent you.
 - ii. **Inhibitions:** Internal feelings that say “why you?”

Question #1: *When you think of God defining you, what words, qualities, or scriptures come to mind? How can a distorted view of our own worth limit our pursuit of Christ and the journey He has called us to?*

Question #2: *If someone is struggling with the limitations of recognizing their worth or removing the weights, how could you encourage and empower them? How should you best approach the conversation in a way that won't give the impression you are belittling or trying to fix them?*

2. **Clarification of the Expectation:** “set the believers an **example**” (Vs. 12b)
- a. **Meaning of the Word:** A pattern that has been formed by the impact of an impression.
 - b. **Misunderstanding of the Word:** Not to be confused with the word “Imitation”.
 - c. **Magnitude of the Word:** “Set the believers” (Vs. 12b) *Embodiment of virtues that are to extend beyond the individual and be reduplicated in others.

Question #3: *Looking back over your life, who were your most influential examples? What do you remember about them that was so impactful to you?*

Question #4: *Who is in your life now that you are currently setting an example for (whether you’ve realized it before or not)? What do you think is the healthiest and most appropriate way to live as an example for them?*

3. **Continuation of the Application:** **in** speech, **in** conduct, **in** love, **in** faith, **in** purity. (Vs.12c)
- a. **Vicarious:** The work is done by the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:25)
 - b. **Visceral:** The Spirit of God will convict us when we don’t measure up (Galatians 5:16)
 - c. **Visible:** The Holy Spirit produces the Fruit of these virtues. (Galatians 5:22)
 - i. **Speech:** “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.” (Ephesians 4:29)
 - ii. **Conduct:** “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.” (Titus 2:7-8)
 - iii. **Love:** “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.” (I Corinthians 13:1)
 - iv. **Faith:** “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)
 - v. **Purity:** “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,” (Titus 2:11-12)

Question #5: After reading these five listed areas, *which one resonates as an area where you can further excel in your example to others? What steps will you take toward developing this area? What is one goal you can set for yourself this week?*

Take Home: Being an example is more than a box to check or a line not to cross, it's a belief that God has given you influence to steward so others may see an example of Christ in you.