

You Can

Part 6: Intentionally Multiplying

Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Timothy 2:1-6

WE:

Have you given up on xianity/church?

Know someone who has?

What was/is the reason?

For some its a slow progression... Kind of outgrowing it

Couldn't reconcile science and the bible? Or the belief of a good God with the existence of evil?

Common, but more than likely mixed in there is something else...

More likely than not it wasn't so much as a what but a who... A Xian(s) who decided that what you chose to do with your life didn't meet their standards.

When people reject Xianity it very rarely has to do with Jesus himself... but it very often has to do with how they were treated by someone claiming to speak for him.

Many Xians see themselves as the moral police of society.

And when that happens it only adds to the pain we see around us...

- Anxiety, forms of depression (cant measure up/never know if in or out/ guilt)
- Division, us v. them
- Even loneliness (have to hide who we are)

But the point we've been trying to make the past 5 episodes...

Following Jesus isn't about what we should or shouldn't do. It's about WHO you can be and what you can do. B/c of Jesus

And Jesus came to love and die for a world of anxious, divided, and hurting people. And he has invited us to join him in committing our lives to his cause...

So as we close this series we need to look at what that truly looks like and requires.

NOT JF- Show you Following Jesus isn't what you experienced from street preachers/religious relatives, moral police xians.

What we are all invited to discover... **You can intentionally multiply hope, peace, and love in the world.**

GOD:

Jesus laid out what he actually intends his followers to be...

Matt 5:13

Often used to say that the Church preserves the moral integrity of the world.... By pointing out people's sins so they behave better so God won't punish nation. (Interesting, don't really see that in the rest of NT teachings)

A better view that makes way more sense in the context of Jesus' overall message and the rest of NT writings- Salt adds flavor and life... **Jesus Followers exist to bring life to the world.**

See Jesus goes on...

Matt 5:14-15

Light of the world... give light to everyone else...

Light of what is right and wrong? Shine light on the sin of people so they realize their guilt and repent?

Well Jesus actually said that is someone else's job- HS

He does a good job... most people deep down know there's something wrong...

And he does sometimes use us to talk about sin... BUT...

When we talk about sin it should be like Jesus... never from a judgement standpoint... always about restoration... sin is something that tries to enslave us and there is a way to be free...

We all have broken the law of love... Can't do anything about it... Jesus died to provide forgiveness and rose to give us a new life.

Listen Xian: Are you more passionate that people hear they are sinners or about offering them restoration/love?

Do you focus on judgment or restoration? Maybe go and read how Jesus interacted with "Sinners" how much judgement did God himself throw at people?

Jesus didn't intend his followers to be the moral police of the world. He intends his followers to be the light of the world.

Ok... So if he's not really talking about shining a light on everyone's sins what are we shining a light on?

The fact that...There's something better, there's something more for people... theres a way out of the darkness, despair, discouragement...

Matt 5:16

The Church is designed to be His example to the world of his love, compassion, mercy.

Jesus Followers illuminate who Jesus is

To be a beacon of hope, love, peace, joy.

To offer the invitation Jesus has given to everyone... you can experience true hope, peace, and love...

QUESTION: Have you experienced it? This isn't about just trying to be really good and kind... it's about giving the allegiance of our life to Jesus and trusting him, his D&R to forgive us and give us a new life now and forever...

Can do it now...

And then we are invited to be part of bringing his hope, peace, love to the rest of the world...

But how? How does the church BE the light of the world?

It doesn't happen by accident. It doesn't just happen by being really nice to people and hoping something happens someday.

It takes intentionality. Something we call at CCC- Intentionally Multiplying.

It's simpler and more powerful than you probably think.

Being the light of the world requires intentional prayer, actions and words.

YOU:

1 Timothy- Paul. Timothy- Mentoring to lead group of JF's in Ephesus. 65 AD

3 questions to guide us in being the light of the world...

2:1

Pray for all people.

For whom am I intentionally praying?

Not just that they will repent and become Xians... but that God will actually make a difference in their daily life. And do we thank him for doing it and taking care of them?

Most of our prayers are for ourselves. I do it too.

But who are we praying that God will overwhelmingly/undenyingly show his love to?

- Careful, He might use you to do it... leads to next question
- Don't just pray that good happens to them...

2:2 (Side note: talking about Nero)

Why pray for authorities? Can live peaceful and quiet lives-

So we can enjoy our freedoms? Keep our rights? Go to a church service every Sunday? Live any way I deem best?

Peace from persecution: Freedom to demonstrate who Jesus is with our words and with our actions- "To live lives marked by godliness and dignity/respect." Free to openly love others with the love of Jesus.

Who am I intentionally loving in order to show the love of God?

Why is this important?

2:3-6

God desires everyone to know/understand his love, peace, forgiveness.

It's not something just for the special select few. It's not something just for the super holy who have earned the right.

That person in your neighborhood, office, class is someone God desperately longs to have an eternal relationship with.

He wants everyone to understand... but can't understand unless someone tells them...

V. 5-6.

3rd Question: **With whom am I intentionally sharing the life Jesus offers?**

We intentionally share the life Jesus offers b/c we have experienced a love and life that we can't help but want others to experience.

Gets people all weird and anxious... not as complicated as you might think...

"But I don't know what to say" ... **if you've experienced it you can share it.**

- Tell me about your first date/first day of school/favorite restaurant
- Resources at Alliance page.

Difference from what might have experienced before is that this isn't about making people conversion projects.

If married- intentionally love your spouse not as a project to get something from them, but b/c you want what's best for them.

Same with kids. Same with all those around us...

B/c Jesus has loved us and given us a new life of love, joy, peace... we want to share so others can experience the same thing...

We love b/c he loved us first. **Loving like Jesus is loving intentionally.**

He didn't just kinda end up loving us.... Jesus chose to love us intentionally.

Jesus D&R wasn't an accident (oh oops) it was an intentional choice.

If we accept our role of being a light to the world we need to love the same way...

Intentionally multiplying- We love others, so they can love others, who can then love others.

Steps to begin intentionally multiplying:

Ask the 3 questions

Ask Jesus to use you to intentionally love someone specific with your prayers/actions/words.

Find and Give support

- CGs
- Alliances (Pray for others together)
- Also avenues to help share with people

WE:

Not moral police.

Guides shining light on life/love we have experienced. With our prayer, actions, and words.

Following Jesus isn't about what you can't do. It's about who you can be and what you can do b/c of Jesus.

Because of Jesus...

You can be who you were always created to be

- Become a new creation and experience a new life

You can Confidently Trust

- Choose to not live in fear but trust that Jesus cares for us

You can Authentically Connect

- B/c we are accepted and loved by Jesus we can accept and love others

You can Independently Grow

- We can take responsibility for our maturity and then apply it together.

You can Purposely Invest

- We can use who we are and what we have for the good of others.

You can Intentionally Multiply

- Intentionally bring hope, peace, love to our world

What step are you going to take? Who are you going to be?

You can live a life of purpose, meaning, peace, joy, hope...

If you choose to trust and follow Jesus and choose to allow him to love through you...

You can discover, enjoy, and share the life Jesus offers

Questions


1. What pushbacks, hesitations, questions, or thoughts did you have during this week's message?
2. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-6. What stands out to you in this passage? How do you think our society would be different if every Jesus Follower saw this type of Intentionally Multiplying as one of their main purposes?
3. Jon asked us, "What step are you going to take?" Which of the 5 measures (Confidently Trusting, Authentically Connecting, Independently growing, Purposely Investing, Intentionally Multiplying) we've discussed in this series do you feel you are ready to develop further?
4. Who would you like your group to pray for with you this week?

Summary:

For some reason many Christians see themselves as the "moral police" of society. But Jesus has something better in mind for his followers... a way to experience love, peace, and hope and to share it with the world.

Episode Breakdown:

- 00:38 For your welcoming
- 01:55 Leaving the Church
- 04:15 An alternative to 'doing'
- 08:00 It's not our job
- 09:14 Hey you, Christian:
- 13:12 3 ideas
- 20:45 The point & some steps
- 22:42 Because of Jesus...
- 24:20 Enjoying together
- 26:30 Discussion time

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SHOW NOTES:

- ▶ Notes & Questions: https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/media/2021-10-24_cg.pdf
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- ▶ Alliance Resources: <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/alliances>
- ▶ Giving Resources: <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/donate>

▶ Upcoming #SalemOregon On-Site Gatherings

October 24th, 4:30pm at our new location! <https://www.yourcrosscreek.com/gathering/> for more info.

▶ #forSalem NOVEMBER Opportunity: Giving Tree

1. Take a tag at our in-person gathering and buy a Christmas present for a CASA kid
2. Can't come in person? Connect with CASA and see how you can help. They do take online donations and have an amazon wishlist! <https://www.casamarionor.org/donate>

► Suggested Bible Readings:

Acts 4:16-22, 2 Corinthians 5:1-6:2, Hebrews 10:23-25

► Music we listened to making this episode:

Veruca Salt: Volcano Girls- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyVSKydUxKk>

Gipsy Kings: Hotel California- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1jJ7SA3j1U>

Bach: Cello Suite No 2- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvZRo-3wvU>

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