

THE WORD OF GOD & FRIENDSHIPS

Instruments of Change in Your Life

Testimony:

1. IDENTITY AMNESIA

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. –Galatians 2:20

2. WE NEED EACH ANOTHER

But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. –Hebrews 3:13

“We need one another. As long as sin still dwells in us there will be some aspect of spiritual blindness. We can see the speck of dust in our neighbor’s eye yet miss the log hanging out of our own.” PAUL TRIPP

3. OUR UNIQUENESS IN THE LORD

SHAPE

S is for our spiritual giftedness.

H is for our heart for God. What is your strongest desire to do for your Lord?

A is for our abilities. God has given you talents, skills, hobbies, bents, and strengths.

P is for our personality. Each of us has a type of personality (introvert, extrovert, melancholy, etc.).

E is for our experiences. The experiences you have had contribute to your service to Christ.

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Wisdom in Friendship

1. In what ways have women influenced you or modeled Christlikeness to you?

2. Do you look for women and ways to spend time with them whose strengths are different than yours to learn from them? If yes, share what drew you and how you approached them to spend time with them.

The World says: Even if a friend is saying the stupidest thing I've ever heard, I don't contradict her—because I wouldn't want her to be negative toward me”

The Word says: Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.
Proverbs 27:6

3. Which one would you say, honestly, is your go to? As the world says? Or as the Word says? What is your natural response to those two statements? Are you willing to wound a friend you see caught in sin?

4. Paul Tripp says, “Either I get my identity vertically, out of my sense of who God is and who he has made me in Christ, or I will seek to get my identity horizontally, out of my circumstances, relationships, and successes.” WHAT do you learn from Galatians 2:20 that addresses that? WHAT does living out this verses look like practically for you?

5. Unpack Hebrews 3:13 together. WHAT is it saying? WHAT are practical ways we do or should live that out? HOW does that look in your life personally?

6. Take some time looking at SHAPE and talk with your husband, friend or mentor mom about how the Lord has SHAPE'd you. Are you using your SHAPE for His glory and in the lives of the “one anothers”? Share how.

GOSPEL VERSES

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2 Corinthians 5:15

15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

1 Timothy 1:15-16

15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. 16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

Hebrews 4:15-16

15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Titus 3:3-7

3 For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. 4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.