

Discipleship #10

Accountability

Since we last met...

1. Have you involved yourself in any activity which is disobedient to God?
2. Have you faithfully maintained your personal walk with God?
- 3.
- 4.

Solo Time With God

From your personal time with God...

1. What is one new idea that you have learned?
2. What is one area of your life where God has been growing you?

Topical Study: Fellowship and Witness

Fellowship is often confused with friendship. Some people believe that coming to church and being with their friends and family is fellowship. But, fellowship is much deeper, more fulfilling, and crucial to our lives as Christians. We cannot grow fully and live the Christian life without fellowship.

1. Who calls us into fellowship? 1 Corinthians 1:9
2. Who is called to enjoy this fellowship? 1 Corinthians 12:12,13; Galatians 3:26-29
3. What is the source of fellowship? 1 John 1:3
4. Read through the following passages and list the different ways the fellowship of the Church is demonstrated:
 - Acts 2:43-47
 - Acts 4:32-35
 - Philippians 2:1-4
 - Colossians 3:12-17
5. Do you think that the people being described in the passages above felt encouraged - supported - helped - cared for as they went through all the experiences in their lives?

6. Think about the types of relationships that you are in. Are these helpful or hurtful relationships?
7. Can the type of fellowship that God gives be of help to you?
8. What can you do to encourage fellowship within the church?
9. A witness is someone who can share from firsthand knowledge as to the facts of a given situation or circumstance. In Matthew 28:18-20 what did Jesus tell His disciples to do? What this an option for them? For us?
10. What truth were the disciples to give witness of? Luke 15:46-48
11. In John 9:1-34 there is a record of Jesus healing a man who had been blind from birth. This man had little or no theological training. But, when questioned by the religious leaders (what was probably a very intimidating situation) he was able to give a simple and effective testimony. What two facts did the man tell the religious leaders when they asked him what had happened (verse 25)?

Sharing our relationship with Jesus can be a hard thing to do. We may not know what to say or how to say it. We can be afraid of what others may think of us. It is helpful to remember that Jesus didn't tell His disciples to win arguments or convince others about Him. He commanded His disciples to be witnesses of Him.

12. What truth are we first hand witnesses of?
13. For what should we always be prepared? How should we do this? 1 Peter 3:15
14. Where does the power to witness come from? Acts 1:8

Sharing the story of how you came to trust in Jesus as your Savior is one of the best ways of witnessing to others. Thinking through ahead of time how to share is extremely helpful. Preparation can replace the fear and hesitancy we may feel about sharing our testimony with confidence and boldness. Preparation will also remind you of the value of your own relationship with Jesus.

Begin by writing out your testimony on a sheet of scratch paper. You might want to refine it. Then write it in your Bible Reading and Prayer Journal.

Try writing it down just the way you would tell it to someone who doesn't know Jesus as their Savior. Make the story of how you came to trust Jesus so clear that another person hearing it would know how to trust Jesus as their personal Savior.

In your testimony you can include what your life was like before you trusted Jesus Christ - then how you came to trust in Him - and finally something about what it has meant since then to know Him.... confidence in life, the blessing of sins forgiven, assurance of eternal life, or other ways your life is different.

In sharing your testimony:

- **Make it personal** - don't preach. Tell what Jesus has done for you. Use "I," "me," - not "you." Remember that witnessing is sharing about your relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- **Make it short.** Three or four minutes should be enough time to cover the essential facts.
- **Keep Jesus central.** A good testimony always highlights what He has done.
- **Use the Word of God.** A verse or two of Scripture will add power to your testimony and remind you of the certainty of your relationship with God.

*You are writing a Gospel, a chapter each day,
By the deeds that you do and the words that you say.
Men read what you write - distorted or true;
What is the Gospel according to you?*