



Pastor Shane Koehler

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Read the **Sermon Summary** before each **Devotion** and then use the **Discussion Questions** to think through implications and application of what we have heard. **Further Reading** provides additional Biblical truth to enhance your devotional time. Sing the **Weekly Song** in together to worship the Lord in response to His truth.

Sermon Summary:

The physical gathering of the body of Christ is essential for the unity and maturity of the church. The Lord has given us pastors and elders to prepare and equip us to edify one another. It is impossible for us to edify the saints and love one another without gathering together. The gathering of the church also produces holiness and maturity which protects us from false doctrine, deceit, and human cunning. Sin thrives in isolation. Holiness is produced in each of us through submission to the Lord in loving one another.

Devotion #1

We Must Love and Support Our Pastors & Missionaries

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers.” (Eph. 4.11)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does the Lord raise up missionaries and church planters, who seek the lost sheep of God in unreached places, and train up men to lead churches in these areas?
2. Why is it so important to love, support, and pray for our missionaries?
3. Why does the Lord raise up shepherds and teachers (pastor and elders) in the church?
4. How do missionaries, pastors, elders, and teachers prove the love of God for His children?
5. Since the Lord gives us these men to shepherd us, why is it important for us to love, honor, and submit to the elders He has given us?
6. Since character, wisdom, and discernment are gained through practice (Hebrews 5:14), why is it important that our elders submit to and apply the truth they preach?
7. Even though you have heard the truth of God’s word, do you still battle sin daily? Do you still fight against the flesh? Do you get hurt or offended when others malign you or hurt you? Then why is it so important to pray for our pastors every day?

Further Reading:

- 1 Timothy 5:17-22
- 1 Peter 5:1-5

Devotion #2

We Must Prepare Ourselves to Serve the Church

“He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Eph. 4.12)

Discussion Questions:

1. If our Father gave us our pastors to equip us, so that we are faithful to serve others and sanctify our brethren, then why is it important to listen carefully to what our pastors say and to faithfully apply the truth we are taught?
2. How does the word of God equip us to do His work and to edify other believers?
3. Why is it important that our pastors faithfully say exactly what God says in Scripture?
4. Why is it imperative for every member of the church to be serving others?
5. How am I (are we) faithfully building up, serving, and submitting to others in the church?
6. Why is it dangerous to listen to truth without applying it in my life?
7. What is the purpose of the church gathering each week, according to God?
8. Why is it dangerous to neglect the gathering of the church, the body of Christ?

Further Reading:

- 2 Timothy 3:12-17
- Ephesians 4:1-7

Devotion #3

We Must Grow in Holiness to Full Maturity in Christ

“Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes (Ephesians 4:13-14)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does the Lord desire unity through Christlikeness in the church?
2. Why must we grow daily in our knowledge and intimacy of our Lord Jesus Christ?
3. Why must we be growing daily in maturity and discernment?
4. Why must we be becoming more and more holy every day?
5. Why is it necessary to gather as the church in order to grow in holiness and maturity?
6. Why is it necessary to gather as the church in order to love one another?
7. Why does it take interacting with others to grow in patience, humility, gentleness, kindness, love, and unity?
8. Why does sin grow in isolation?
9. Why does loving others in the gathering of the church help us to fight sin in our lives?

Further Reading:

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-26
- John 17:14-21

Devotion #4

We Must Love One Another (Ephesians 4:15-16)

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love” (Eph 4.15-16)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important that each of us grow in maturity and love?
2. Why must we be in close contact with one another to grow in holiness and love?
3. How does my sin, and my holiness, effect the whole church?
4. Why does God require for each of us to speak the truth in love to one another?
5. How do we equip each other to love and good deeds?

Further Reading:

- 1 John 4:7-21
- Romans 8:31-39

Weekly Song:

“Jesus, With Thy Church Abide”

(Sung to the tune of “Hallelujah, What a Savior”)

Jesus, with Thy Church abide, be her Savior, Lord, and Guide,
While on earth her faith is tried, Hear our prayer, O gracious Father

May her voice be ever clear, Warning of a judgment near,
Telling of a Savior near, Hear our prayer, O gracious Father

Keep her life and doctrine pure, Help her, patient, to endure,
Trusting in Thy promise sure, Hear our prayer, O gracious Father

All her fettered pow'rs release, Bid our strife and envy cease,
Grant the heav'nly gift of peace, Hear our prayer, O gracious Father

May she then all glorious be, Spotless and from wrinkle free,
Pure and bright, and worthy Thee, Hear our prayer, O gracious Father