

Sunday, September 10, 2023
Loving God's Children Like Jesus Did

Helping Our Brethren Grow "in Christ" Part 2

Jesus' Creates True Children of God

- **True children of God are born of the Spirit and nurtured by the Spirit.** (John 3:2-8; 4:10-15; Mat. 18:1-5; Luke 8:5-15; Gen. 1:26-27)
- **The Spirit's ministry in our lives as the "The Spirit of Truth" is to help us learn from Jesus.** (John 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-15)
- **Jesus teaches us truth so we will grow as children of God.** (Mat. 28:18-20; John 8:31-32; 18:36-37)
- **Jesus' two most important teachings are:**
 - 1) **Jesus taught us how to grow in our Relationship with God, as a Father.** John 17:3; Mat.6:5-15
 - 2) **Jesus taught us to love God's Children as much as He did.**

"³⁴I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35 John 15:12-17

How Did Jesus Love?

1. **Jesus died for them to provide forgiveness for all wrongs committed in life.** Mat. 6:12-15; 26:26-29; John 10:11-17; 15:13

Matthew 18:21-35 "up to 70 times 7"

We, as Christ followers, practice forgiving as a way of life in the family of God. (2 messages)

2. **Jesus washed the disciples' feet representing His ongoing commitment to cleansing God's children from their sinful tendencies.**

*"What I do you do not realize now; but you shall understand hereafter."
John 13:7*

We, as Christ followers, get involved in each other's lives to encourage true growth toward Christlikeness.

3. Jesus taught healthy habits for meaningful interaction in the lives of children of God in the family of God.

Matthew 18:15-17 If your brother sins...

- Verse 15: Address the specifics "one on one" to preserve his/her dignity and reputation.
- Allow time to process and opportunity to take ownership.
- Evaluate the degree to which it is habitual and damaging to the lives of others.
- Verse 16: If it is a habitual pattern of hurt to people and the family of God, involve two or three others who have witnessed the tendencies and confront with humility.

"Brothers and sisters, even if a person is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you are not tempted as well. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:1-2
- Verse 17: Without ownership and commitment to change, a person reflects lack of commitment to Jesus and undermines the growth of God's children in the family of God. Dissociate!

We, as Christ followers, are devoted to building a healthy family of God and must eliminate threats.

The 21st Century Church

- **Many churches should be considered gatherings of people more so than disciples seeking to know Jesus.**
- **We must earn the right to speak truth into the lives of others.**
- **The most common environment to share the value of true spiritual growth is a small group. See Jesus' example.**
- **Every one of us would be wise to invest in a small group that builds trust and honesty over a period of 2-3 years.**