



A CHURCH THAT WINS

A Deep Church

MAIN THING

We Cannot do the work of the Kingdom if we aren't connected to the King.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:22-23, Matthew 6:5-13, Matthew 13:3-8, John 4:23, Malachi 3:7-12

ICEBREAKER

Every January, people make resolutions; lose weight, be better with money, etc. Some of you may do that, and some of you may already be failing miserably at it. Was there ever a New Year's resolution that you kept? What kind of discipline did it take to make that happen?

OPENING THOUGHT

Christians should be balanced in their inner walk with Christ and their outward actions towards the world. Far too many people are imbalanced, usually according to their personalities. Introverted people tend towards the inner life; prayer, meditation, study, silence, solitude, etc. Extroverted people tend towards the outward actions; missions, evangelism, community groups, etc. All of us are imbalanced, and the church needs to emphasize both equally. While the church must be excellent at missions, evangelism, discipleship, etc, it also must be excellent in teaching people how to pray, how to study the Bible, how to give, how to practice silence and solitude. These individual practices bring us into deep communion with the Father, and we cannot do the work of the Kingdom if we aren't connected to the King.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. When you hear the word "deep", what comes to mind? As Dave said on Sunday, "Superficiality is the curse of our age." What does that phrase mean? Is it really that hard for people today to get deep? Are we/you ok with surfacey (not really a word) relationships, knowledge, or faith? Why is this so common today?
3. Read the Scriptures above. Each one corresponds with a spiritual discipline that Dave talked about on Sunday. Which ones, do you feel, are your strongest? Weakest? Why are these disciplines so important to a believer? How can these affect the depth of your relationship with God?

LIFE APPLICATION

Is it possible to believe in God and have no spiritual discipline at all? Yes. It is. However, can you be a Christian and have no spiritual discipline at all? That's really not possible. Without discipline in the Christian's life, you become prey to more temptation and, therefore, more sin. We desperately need more balance in our lives. It may be time for you to really start adding some discipline to your faith. In 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Paul compares the Christian life to that of someone preparing for a race and the discipline needed to complete it. Does this look like your life? Should it?

CHALLENGE

If you are someone who struggles to be disciplined without the help of others, you're in luck. Currently, you are in a room with other people who probably need you just as much. Accountability is huge when it comes to discipline. Most people have work out partners in the gym. We have financial advisers who watch our money to make sure we aren't blowing it. Even the bible.com app has reading plans that you can do with others for accountability. You've been handed a gold mine in being a part of this group. Use it.