



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 10:32, Matthew 6:5-13, Mark 9:29, Matthew 13:3-8, John 4:23

ICEBREAKER

What is the dumbest thing you ever did as a kid that got you into trouble?

OPENING THOUGHT

The Bible calls the church to a balance of personal relationship with Christ and kingdom work in the world. Few if any churches achieve this balance well. Most are slanted towards the personalities of the leaders- extroverted leaders tend to lead churches that are active in kingdom work while introverted leaders lead churches that emphasize prayer, study, etc. We as a church need to emphasize both, because out of balance churches will not be what God wants them to be.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If a friend were to ask you, 'What was one thing your pastor said in his sermon on Sunday?' what would you say?
2. Are you more inclined to the outward expressions of our faith- Sunday worship, community group, missions, sharing your faith; or more inclined towards the inner expressions- prayer, silence, study, meditation, etc?
3. We identified four spiritual disciplines- prayer, fasting, study, and worship. Which is the most natural for you? Which is the one that takes the most effort?

LIFE APPLICATION

Spiritual disciplines like prayer, fasting, study, and worship won't in and of themselves connect you with God. We can't use them as a spiritual checklist and then think we are okay. They are simply practices that have the POTENTIAL to connect you with God. You can pray and fast and study and worship and not connect with God at all. However, you cannot connect with God without doing the above things.

If we are to grow in our walk with Christ, we must be consistent in practices that make that possible.

CHALLENGE

Pick one of the four spiritual disciplines that we talked about (there are more, a LOT more- choose another if you like) that you are willing to devote more time to this week and for the future. What spiritual discipline will you begin engaging in that will help grow your relationship with Christ this week?