

NORTHWAYS SMALL GROUPS

Sermon Series: From Turmoil to Triumph
Sermon Title: The Default Disposition of a Disciple of Christ
Sermon Text: John 13-16

Small Group Reminders: Be sure to review other events @ NWC.FYI
URGENT! Please help us by taking the Post-Covid Survey! (Link @ NWC.FYI)

Pre-Discussion Questions:

*When you met last week, you should have shared with your group at least one action step you would take. **How did you do?***

Icebreaker Questions:

- Rodney shared that he is an INTJ or INTP of the Meyers-Briggs personality types. Ever take one of those? Like a Disc profile or even the silly ones on Facebook? What have they revealed about you?

Read this week's **Sermon in a Sentence:** *When faith, hope, and love are at the center of our motivation, joy and peace become our default disposition.*

Discussion Questions:

1. **REVIEW:** If needed, briefly run through the bullet points of Sunday's message. (See other side.)
 - What did God teach you through the message this weekend? Any personal insights coming out of Sunday's message?
2. **DISCUSS**
 1. What is a disposition? How would you describe it?
 - Do you think we are fully aware of our disposition? Would people's perception of our disposition align with our self-described disposition?
 - What dictates our disposition? Is it internal or external? Is it a choice or is it hard-wired? Or is it fully dependent on external circumstances?
 - Talk through the concept of Shalom - how it means things are whole or complete. How does the shalom or the lack of it affect or disposition?
 2. Faith (belief - trust - confidence) is not just a matter of the mind. It is action oriented. It is coupled with hope - which is a confident expectation of a God-controlled outcome.
 - Think of a tough situation a person might go through - something that puts them under pressure. (Maybe even talk through a current group member's personal trial if you're open to it.) Apply those definitions of faith and hope directly to the situation, crafting actual action steps, to see how they defuse worry, fear, frustration, etc.
 - How does the idea of abiding/remaining in God's love bring further comfort and even lead to experiencing His joy and peace?
3. **PRACTICE:**
 - Fruit trees are unmistakable. **Our disposition reveals the kind of fruit tree that we are.** Read Galatians 5:22-23.
 - Notice how the "fruit tree" begins with love, joy, and peace.
 - Review the definition of agape love. Talk through all the fruit listed and briefly explain how each is useful in demonstrating agape love.
 - Which ones are fully present and which ones are missing in your life? Confess to your group and pray for one another.

Application/Reflection

- Write down the sermon in a sentence.
- Write down and share with the group at least one action step you'll take this week.
- Write down one person's name from your group (Make sure each person has at least one person, not in the same household), and one thing you could pray for and be intentional throughout the week to pray for them.

This Week: The Default Disposition of a Disciple of Christ

• What is your default disposition?

- When life puts the squeeze on us, what's on the inside inevitably comes out.
 - How would people describe your natural emotional responses to life? Are you quick to anger? Are you a worrier? Are you generally happy or stressed and on edge? Are you a Debbie Downer? What's bubbling just under the surface?
- Thankfully, unlike natural personality types and talents and giftings which tend to be hardwired into our genetic makeup, as apprentices of Jesus, we have the option of adjusting and cultivating our default spiritual and emotional disposition to be in alignment with the Kingdom and the Jesus Way.

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• Introducing the Fabulous Five: Faith, Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

1. Faith - to Believe, Trust, Have Confidence.

- *Faith is not just believing it in your head, it's living it with your life.*

2. Hope

- Belief and expectation are the keys to this hope. As His child, my self-confidence is rooted in God-confidence.
- **Hope is having a confident expectation of a God-controlled outcome.**
- *Now may the God of HOPE fill you with all JOY and PEACE (and what's the key to that promise?) as you BELIEVE (that's faith) so that you may overflow with HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 CSB*

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3. Love.

- *"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34*
- Abide in His love: Love FROM Him will change you to love LIKE Him.
- Are you an unmistakable Agape Tree? (*Agape love: selfless, sacrificial love that passionately desires the best in other people.*)
- Faith and Hope are critically important, but Paul even says this: *Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love—but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13 CSB*

4. Joy

- *"I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. John 15:9-11 CSB*
- Fully loving God and fully loving others leads to fullness of joy.
- Joy is an attitude God's people adopt not because of happy circumstances but because of their hope in God's love and promise.

5. Peace

- *"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful. John 14:27 CSB*
- Shalom: to be complete or whole.
 - Life is complex, full of moving parts and relationships and circumstances. And whenever any of these are out of alignment or missing, your shalom breaks down. Life is no longer whole. It needs to be restored.
- By offering us HIS peace, Jesus is causing a realignment and repairing of that which is broken down or missing; even in the midst of circumstances that others might find unsettling or even catastrophic.

When faith, hope, and love are at the center of our motivation, joy and peace become our default disposition.