

“What’s the Point?”

Matthew 3:16; 1Corinthians 6:19-20; 2Corinthians 3:17-18

5/25/25

Who here has been in a meeting or presentation and the thought has crossed your mind, “What’s the point?” Who here has been asked by a coach for more commitment to your child’s youth sport and you think, “What’s the point?” Who here has put more time and effort into your job and few recognize it and you think to yourself, “What’s the point?”

It is my hope and prayer that the reason you worship weekly is for spiritual formation. You are building Christ’s community. There is a real reason, a real goal, a real point that Jesus lives and wants to live in us! Who here wants to overcome evil? Who here wants to live well? Who here wants to be transformed into Christ?

Jesus lives and desires to live in us to teach how to overcome evil. To teach how to live well. To spiritually form us into His presence. That is the goal of worship. That is the goal of friendship with Jesus. That is the goal of NPC for everyone who walks through the doors.

Today, and throughout the summer we are going to talk about spiritual formation. Travis and Karen will have a summer series called Common Discipleship: Living Out Our Faith in Daily Life. They will explore how Jesus influences how we spend our time, how we spend our resources, and how we eat.

Before I read Galatians, God’s Word teaches us one very important point in Matthew 3:16, and in 1 & 2 Corinthians. The same Holy Spirit that descends on Jesus like a dove, the same Spirit of God that empowers Jesus’ ministry is the same Holy Spirit that empowers us. Spiritual formation is what Christ’s Church is all about. If people are not being transformed into Christ’s presence by the Holy Spirit working through our ministry, we are not doing our jobs. We are here to do soul work! We are here to invite Jesus to live in us.

Galatians 4:19 & 5:22-26

Jesus desires for His joy to be in us and for our joy to be complete. Jesus wants us to live well and to treat others well. So what does living well look like according to God’s Word: the fruits of the Spirit. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. -Galatians 5:22-26

And this is not self-help. I’m not against self-help, nor reading self-help books. I graduated last weekend from Villanova to become a better leader, but the professors emphasized that the whole point that we lead is for the salvation of souls by the power of the Holy Spirit. We must be guided by Christ’s Spirit through prayer and conversation.

When we encounter Christ, we Christians realize we need help, but we can’t help ourselves. You literally can’t pull yourself up by your bootstraps. The Holy Spirit can lift you, Christ’s

Church can lift you, but you can't simply help yourself. We need Christ's Spirit to change us, and we need each other to hold us to account.

Spiritual formation is a process. It doesn't happen all at once. After Paul tells us what it looks like to have Christ live in us (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control), he paints the picture of gardening. Are you planting habits that will have Christ grow in you? Or are you planting habits that will destroy you?

Those are the questions on how to overcome evil. On how to live well. On how to be Christ's presence in the world. That is the point. We are working with Christ's Spirit so that when people encounter us they are experiencing Christ. Overtime people should literally see Christ in the Christian's life. What did people experience when meeting Jesus: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? Jesus lives to live in us!

So how do we begin spiritual transformation?

First, Christ must be invited to live in you. Love doesn't force. Love invites to grow together. Second, any good friendship begins and ends with communication. Pray without ceasing. When aware, Christ is an ever-present friend. Third, have Jesus' Words live in you. Choose one of the fruits of the Spirit and work on it. Do you want to work on joy? Live generously. You cannot have joy without generosity and when you are generous, you will experience joy.

Gentleness. When you make a mistake, forgive yourself. When someone else makes a mistake, ask yourself, "Have I made the same mistake?"

What's the point of worship? We worship that which we want to become. We want to become like Jesus.

Love,
Pastor Curtis