

Gospel Shaped Lifestyle - Well Ordered

1. Intro:

- a. We have been going through the book of 1 Timothy discussing what our lives are to be shaped by
 - i. That we are to live a gospel-centered life
 1. That how you process information, think, act is filtered, influenced and informed by the gospel
 - a. Tweens 5 points “What is the gospel?”
 - ii. That we are to be a gospel-centered church
 1. Takes a gospel-centered life and makes in corporate
 - a. how we interact with one another, how we corporately interact with the community around us
- b. In regards to the church, Christ’s body, we see that our God is well ordered [Was orderly with Creation; structuring Israel and its worship; His plan of redemption through Christ; and continues with the church] in that He ordained a structure for a healthy church
 - i. The sermons on elders, deacons and members
 1. Elders are qualified men who protect, feed, lead and love the flock by reflecting the Good Shepherd
 2. Deacons are qualified men and women who diffuse disaster through service, serving both the elders and the body. [Which also reflects Christ who came to serve]
 3. Members commit/covenant to a local church to use their unique gifts to build up the body and proclaim Christ to the nations [Reflects Christ submitting to the Father]
 - a. We see a healthy church structure of: Elders lead ministry, deacons facilitate ministry, and the church does the ministry.
- c. This week is our 4th in verse 2...and we have two more to go after this
 - i. [The great theologians and expository preachers of old would be proud at our ability to stretch 2 verses into 3 months of sermons]
- d. **Read:** *1 Tim 3:2 “Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach...”*
 - i. Today were looking at being “respectable”
 - ii. Prescribed for all, but must describe our leadership

2. R-E-S-P-E-C-T and what it means to you and me?
 - a. As I was preparing, this was an interesting attribute in the list because respect is something that to some extent [very much] involves two parties and we will differ amongst ourselves
 - i. Our wiring affects who we respect: what authors/books/blogs we read, what politicians we endorse, even what “christian” ministries we support,
 1. Certain character traits that you value highly, respect those that have them
 2. If we don’t understand what a respectable leader is supposed to look like according to scripture then we potentially won’t respect them or we’ll respect someone we shouldn’t
 - b. The Greek word used for ‘respectable’ is used only one other time in the Bible which we saw in Steve’s sermon discussing modesty back in 1 Tim 2:9
 - i. Kosmos: It means well-arranged; well-ordered; modest; or respectable
 - ii. The thing I found most interesting is that the root word for Kosmos is Kosmos [Cosmos] (Cosmology is the study of the origin of the universe)
 1. People who we really respect, that we deeply admire, mean the world to us; they influence us and affect us deeply
 - c. The fact I want you to have in your mind throughout the rest of this sermon is:
 - i. **Who you respect is the barometer of your worldview**
 1. Bill discussed the idea of our worldview in the beginning of the sermon series in 1 Timothy
 - a. the way you think and see the world
 2. When you analyze the people and character traits that you highly value, that you respect greatly, it will show you your worldview (the lens that you filter everything through)
 - ii. Also, the flip side of that is also true that our worldview affects who we respect [So, when adding new people]
 1. Ex. - your political leanings limit who you look up to and let influence you
 - a. Your worldview affects your stance on the home, abortion, how you educate your kids, church involvement, where you “send” your money,

- i. Forms your presuppositions - a presupposition is the implicit assumptions you have when you are forming an argument or a belief
 - 1. If you've done a DG with the DBS study method, the questions are answered presupposing the passage as true
 - ii. Even if this is a term(s) you have never heard of or understand you have one it just is most likely not well organized
 - 1. When we take stances on social and cultural issues we're, many times, coming at them from our worldview/presuppositions
 - a. e.g. A follower of Christ presupposing the existence of God and authority of the Bible
 - 2. [That our beliefs shape/determine our actions]
 - iii. Take a moment to think about those you respect, why you respect them, whether it is their social status, relation to you, character traits, philanthropic actions or their platforms
 - 1. Now ask are these people/reasons gospel-centered? Is their chief end/purpose to glorify God and enjoy Him forever?
 - iv. Take a moment to think about yourself, your character traits, your service and your convictions
 - 1. Ask same questions
- d. (Why is worldview important: Barrage of influences) From politics to music to literature to friends to family to Facebook they are influencing us and affecting our world-view and what we respect, whether we admit it or not
 - i. (So, with all this in mind) What does a respectable church leader look like? What does a respectable follower of Christ look like?
 - 1. Reemphasize - Prescribed for all, but must describe our leadership
 - ii. Who should we respect and let influence us?
 - 1. Remembering that those we respect the most influence us the most
 - a. So, this is not to say that you can only respect Pastors/Elders or Christians, but to be aware of who is influencing you

3. Respecting a 'Whole' Person

a. One of Bill's sermons has been stuck in my mind lately and that is the 3D Faith sermon from the "Be On Guard" series [can look it up online]

i. To summarize the sermon it discussed our natural wiring (Head, Hands or Heart) and the need to be intentional about growing in all 3 areas, it also discussed the dangers of only focusing on our natural wiring

1. As followers of Christ we don't "arrive" in any area we need to strive to continually grow in all 3

b. Respectable leadership is well ordered in Head, Hands and Heart

4. So, what does that look like??

a. Head:

i. What's more important truth or love?:

1. Trick question - depending on our wiring we may blurt out an answer, but in the Bible God is said to *be* both these traits [1 John 4:8 God is love; John 14:6 Christ says He is the truth]

2. If you were one to say truth in your head you have to remember Paul's first letter to the Corinthians where if he doesn't have love he gains nothing; of faith, hope and love the greatest is...BUT before those who said love in your heads pump your fists ask yourself this, what kind of love do you want? Don't you want true love?

a. We have to strive to make both equally important

ii. Truth and Authority:

1. So, we need to be followers of Christ who HIGHLY value/respect truth. *Proverbs 16:16 better to get wisdom than gold, choose understanding rather than silver*

a. Do we believe that? e.g. \$1 million or wisdom which do you choose? Or would we rather have the money and pleasures and what makes us feel good?

b. The apostle Peter in his 1st epistle quoting Isaiah 40 He says "flesh is like grass; the grass withers the flower fades but the word of the Lord endures forever"

i. Do we want to invest in something that is eternal or finite?

2. If God is truth then truth is absolutely what God says it is and not relative to and dictated by the whims of culture

a. This is consistent logic with God as creator

i. We'll discuss sovereignty in Hands

- b. And this idea of absolute truth vs relative truth is a battle that has been increasing in the church ever since the liberal theologians of the 19th century, modern and postmodern movements [and churches are caving to the internal & external pressure]
 - i. Ultimately, it comes down to where truth is found and who has authority
3. Where is truth found?
- a. God did not inspire movies, CCM or a tv series; He gave us the Bible. That is where we should go primarily for truth and that is the “measuring rod” for everything else
 - i. Christ said in His High Priestly prayer[John 17] that “Your[Father] word is truth”
 - ii. Words are vital
 - 1. Theme of God’s word throughout scripture: from God creating through words[speaking] in Genesis, speaking through prophets, His written word of the scriptures, the ultimate incarnate Word, Jesus [John 1], all the way to Revelation where in chapter 19 Jesus is again called the Word of God and a sharp sword comes from His mouth destroying His enemies
 - 2. And just like in the garden with the serpent twisting and attacking the validity and authority of God’s word, our culture doing the same to the Bible [Nothing new under the sun Ecc]
 - b. If God’s truth is not found in the Bible we have nothing to gauge true/authentic Christianity with, then christianity will simply shift with the cultural norms
 - i. You may say “We’re just supposed to love each other” thats “true” christianity
 - 1. You can’t make that absolute statement, we’ve thrown out the solid foundation of truth and replaced it with the shifting sands of culture

- ii. Or we may get utterly blasphemous statements like the one given by Victoria Osteen last year where she said: *"I just want to encourage every one of us to realize when we obey God, we're not doing it for God—I mean, that's one way to look at it—we're doing it for ourselves, because God takes pleasure when we're happy. That's the thing that gives Him the greatest joy. So, I want you to know this morning: Just do good for your own self. Do good because God wants you to be happy. When you come to church, when you worship Him, you're not doing it for God really. You're doing it for yourself, because that's what makes God happy. Amen?"*

- 1. No, not "Amen" that undermines everything the Bible teaches about God, what being made in His image means and worship/obedience that is pleasing to Him

4. Authority

- a. Interwoven with truth is the concept of Authority
 - i. When we say someone is an "authority" in a specific field or topic we are implying they speak truly about their field/topic
- b. If you're sitting here and you say "I'm a follower of Christ" you can NOT then blatantly, unrepentantly just ignore the authority of Scripture
 - i. Whether in regards to holiness, doctrine, worship, missions etc
 - ii. "I just read the Red Letters" Error of Red Letter Christianity
 - 1. That Jesus frequently quotes OT scriptures, calling it God's word
 - a. Being the perfect God-man he would be required to make us aware of the Scriptures not being authoritative

2. Can name the Whole "Counsel" of Eagles, Flyers and Phillies players/coaches, but can't name the books of the Bible,
 - a. Shame on us
 - i. I could probably quote you more movie lines than bible verses
 - ii. How can we talk of loving God; how we say its a relationship and not a religion, but we're not disciplining ourselves to "get to know" Him. That happens from Genesis to Revelation, not just the parts of the NT and Psalms we like and find "motivational"
 - iii. Further how can we make declarations about God's character from only a piece of the Bible? How can it be said Christ is different from OT God when He frequently states He and the Father are one?
 - b. Living in the age of the Internet holds us more responsible. We have literally information at our fingertips. We can read the orig lang; the writings of church fathers and leaders from 2nd century to today; gleaning from their wisdom, studying and comparing their writings to the Bible to help to form our convictions, seeking truth
 - i. But what has technology done? Are we more disciplined? Dedicated? Or lazier - I haven't memorized a phone # in years, just learned my wife's
- iv. Our knowledge of God and what He has done from Genesis to what He is going to do in Revelation is proportional to our love for Him
 1. I love my wife and the more I get to know her that love deepens
 2. Think of your favorite book (aside from the "christian" answer) mine is Till We Have Faces by C.S. Lewis
 - a. Would you believe me that I loved that book if I could only explain 1 or chapters? You would expect me to basically be able to walk you through it

- v. **A well ordered leader strives to know more of God, is firm in their convictions and uses their knowledge to edify the body**
- b. Hands:
 - i. Wisdom - putting our Head into action: Everything we discussed in regards to being respectable in Head would be hypocrisy and a waste if we did not put into practice
 - 1. Wisdom is applied knowledge
 - a. Can have Knowledge without wisdom, but can't have wisdom without knowledge
 - b. If you don't have "true" knowledge then you don't have "true" wisdom; no matter how catchy, trendy, "spiritual" or loving it may sound
 - ii. *(Go-to verse) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:9-10 ESV)*
 - 1. Christ says that the world will know we are His disciples by the love we have for one another
 - a. We are called to think of others more highly than ourselves [Phil]
 - iii. God's sovereignty and stewardship:
 - 1. What do we mean when we say sovereign? How quickly we throw that word out, but don't contemplate its implications
 - a. *Psalm 24:1 The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,*
 - b. He has made us to glorify Him and to enjoy Him, not to be independent of Him
 - 2. The problem is Humanity has been in rebellion since the Fall
 - a. That is why when we talk about salvation we use terms like: atonement, redemption and reconciliation
 - i. Covering our sin, redeeming us from our bondage to sin and reconciling the severed relationship lost in Adam
 - b. Unless that reconciliation occurs we are still enemies of God
 - i. *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,* the first step in glorifying God is surrendering to His sovereign authority
 - 1. Jesus: Savior AND Lord

iv. Without Faith it's Impossible:

1. Charles Spurgeon - "Virtues without faith are whitewashed sins. Obedience without faith, if it is possible, is a gilded disobedience. Not to believe, nullifies everything. It is the fly in the ointment; it is the poison in the pot. Without faith, with all the virtues of purity, with all the benevolence of philanthropy, with all the kindness of disinterested sympathy, with all the talents of genius, with all the bravery of patriotism, and with all the decision of principle—without faith it is impossible to please God." *quoting Hebrews 11:6*
 - a. *Rom 14:23b For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.*
 - b. Do we agree with these statements? What does that mean? That all the "good" people do, if it isn't done in faith for the glory of God is sin
2. We need to stop elevating the celebrities who do "good" deeds, make "loving" statements that aren't followers of Christ
 - a. We need to be discerning; we need to support and let those influence us who are living godly lives
 - i. Mature men and women of the faith (those more mature than us)

v. **A well ordered leader lives from their convictions for the glory of God and reflects Christ by loving and serving one another**

c. Heart:

- i. Pet Peeve - in a discussion and someone says "well, it's just the heart that matters":
 1. explain, to me its just a cop out, give quick example of FB Christmas debate
 - a. We just discussed how truth matters
 - i. But thank goodness for grace in matters of "unclear" doctrine e.g. baptism, end times etc (but NT is very clear on what is sin)
 2. Some will quote verses related to wanting love and not sacrifice Hosea 6:6
 - a. That just as long as you love Jesus and love love and love grace, thats its all good
 - b. But Christ says "if you love me you will keep My commandments"

- i. That the sign of your love for Christ; the proof of your heart for Christ is to keep His commandments
 - ii. The second half of that verse that Christ quotes from the prophet Hosea is “the knowledge of God more than burnt offering”
 - 1. Comes back to TRUE LOVE
 - ii. Going through the motions:
 - 1. That Head, Hands and Heart as a follower of Christ are interwoven; we need to strive to not have one without the others
 - a. The reason the Heart gets focused on in the verse in Hosea is because, in essence, it is the catalyst. Because you can go through the motions having the knowledge and doing the right stuff, but have your heart nowhere near God. We can achieve that deception and hypocrisy, but it is impossible for God to genuinely have your heart and not have your Head and Hands
 - b. So, the question to ask is what has your Head and Hands because that will show you where your Heart is; work? school? husband? wife? kids? friends? hobbies? politics? sports? success? money? fame?
- iii. Desiring God:
 - 1. Jonathan Edwards - "God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is our proper; and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any, or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean."
 - a. Prayer and Fasting
 - i. Fasting shows our hunger for God more than our hunger for things of this world

- ii. Prayer is talking with God yes, but it shows our utter dependence on Him
 - iv. **A well ordered leader loves God above all things, learning and serving out of an overflow of love for God and devotion to His glory**
- 5. Respecting a 'gospel-centered' person:
 - a. Well ordered in Head, Hands and Heart
 - i. Christ our example
 - 1. Jesus is God come in the flesh full of Grace and Truth [John 1]; as we sing in “Come Behold...” true and better Adam; perfect Son of Man: He is our Head, Hands and Heart example
 - a. He lived the life demanded of us
 - b. Christ’s work of redemption is the cross yes and the resurrection, but the incarnation and Christ’s [active obedience] was necessary
 - ii. The Gospel our Fuel
 - 1. The work of Christ fuels us because inevitably we will stumble, or act like a pharisee or become lethargic and apathetic towards the christian life
 - a. That’s the beauty of Grace; that God’s planned, resurrecting, outrageous, overcoming and forever grace redeems us
 - i. The Gospel refutes the lie that our perfection in this life is the only way we’ll be saved, because it is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone; in His perfection
 - b. So, we zealously strive to reflect His perfect life out of response to all He has done, confessing and repenting when we sin, but finding our identity in Christ
 - iii. **SCOTUS:**
 - 1. So, what does Head, Hands, and Heart look like in light of the SCOTUS decision? All three need to be interwoven, that we cannot compromise on the truth of Scripture, that God through His word defines truth, what love and marriage are and we need to present it with grace. We are all sinners in need of repentance. We are all born spiritually dead, in total depravity, in bondage to sin. We all need to repent of our sin

and cling to grace. John Piper quote “We weep over our sins. We don’t celebrate them. We don’t institutionalize them.” The Kingdom of God is infinitely more important than the United States of America and the law of Christ is infinitely more righteous, true and good than the laws of our nation. We need to stand united as the church clinging to God and His truth, also being honest and repentant of our own sins, so as to be a true and strong witness to the world around us.

6. So, R-E-S-P-E-C-T as well as A-B-L-E
 - a. **A well ordered life of Head, Hands and Heart, reflects Christ our example, fueled by gospel overflow**
 - i. Those are leaders we should respect
 - ii. That is what we should all strive for