

True Spirituality; Becoming an r12 Christian, June 12-15

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? *Circle Two Opportunity...*

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

Session 7: Overcoming the Evil Aimed at You – Part 2, Paul

Review:

- **About a relationship**, not rules, not activity
- Jesus is the **ONLY WAY** for us to be in right standing with God
- **The RESULT** of true spirituality is rest, refreshment, and joy!
- Surrender is **TAUGHT** and **MODELED** by Jesus, Himself
- Surrender is **the CHANNEL** through which God’s biggest and best blessings flow.
- We are in a **REAL BATTLE** against satan and a world system designed to destroy us
- God’s Word is the **KEY** to winning the battle and transforming our hearts and minds
- God is the **ONLY ONE** to give us an accurate view of ourselves
- We must get into **GOD’S WORD** and understand who we are in Christ
- Authentic community is at the **CORE** of Christian life
- Forgiveness is a **CHOICE**

Paul understood Romans 12 because he experienced it.

Life Before Christ

Acts 7:57-58 (ESV) ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

[Stephen] ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Romans 12:3 ESV

Acts 9:1-6 (ESV) But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

Romans 12:14-17 (ESV)

Acts 9:5 (ESV) ⁵ And he said, “Who are you, **Lord?**” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

† He Knew Jesus was Lord

➤ **Paul experienced Romans 12:9-13 through Annias coming, serving him and being called brother.**

Acts 9:10-16 (ESV) ¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “**Brother Saul**, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened.

Romans 12:14-17 (ESV)

- 1. What about Paul’s encounter with Jesus transformed his life so much that he was willing to suffer and give up his life for Christ?**

Life after Christ

1Corinthians 15:9 (ESV) ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1 Timothy 1:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

➤ *Romans 12 is Paul’s plea for those who will follow Christ. He understood the depth and depravity of his life before Christ and the saving grace that had been offered.*

Romans 5:8-9 (ESV)

When we can get into the dirt with one another, we can relate to each other. We don't need to clean ourselves up for our brothers and sisters. Being real is living in authentic community

1 Corinthians 15:31 (ESV) ³¹ I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!

➤ **It's understanding there is nothing good in myself - this is sober judgement.**

➤ **We have to die to ourselves daily**

Philippians 3:4-14 (ESV) ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

True Spirituality is

- † **Intimacy** - knowing God as He really is
- † **Alignment** - following God as He really leads
- † **Assignment** - obeying God as He really instructs

Throne Room:

Do we see our relationship with Christ as priceless?

† The emphasis must be on Christ.

† Christianity is not passive

2. Why was Paul able to be the servant that Jesus used to carry the message to the Gentiles?

- Paul experienced it and so he could teach it.

Romans 12:14-21 (ESV) ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

There are a lot of “Christians” that accept God but don’t accept Jesus.

Throne Room:

Is Jesus Lord of my life?

Where is God calling me to surrender more to Christ’s Lordship in my life?

TAKEAWAYS: