**R12 Session # 5**

**Authentic Christ Follower/Leader**

**Pillar 4: Your Relationship with the OTHER BELIEVERS…Serving in love (12:9-13)**

Welcome & Updates

* Prayer -- Read 1John 3:7-9…invite all to pray (popcorn prayer).
* What issues have surfaced since last meeting?
* Questions #5/6? Or Video by Francis Chan
* Anyone memorize 12:9-13?

Centering

* Let’s do a quick review of the first three pillars of an authentic Christ Follower/Leader:

Pillar #1 Surrendered to God ***verse 12:1*** *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship*

Pillar #2 Separate from the world ***verse 12:2****Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

Pillar #3 Sober in self-assessment ***verses 3-8****For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.* ***4****For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,* ***5****so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.* ***6****We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;* ***7****if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;* ***8****if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully*

* The fourth pillar involves how we relate to *other believers*…serving in Love.
* Let’s read it and circle what pops out to us.

Pillar #4 Serving in Love***verses 9-13****Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

* (Suggested Directions for “mining” the scripture)
  + Serving in Love-Love is the fuel by which we serve. When we don’t serve in love, what is it? (guilt/obligation). Are you serving in some area not bathed in love? What is it? Let’s talk about it.
    - How are you using your gifts in serving? How can we help you?
  + Spiritual fervor-it’s a byproduct, not manufactured. How do you try to ‘manufacture’ spiritual fervor? How sustaining is that?
  + Verse 12
    - Be Joyful in hope-what is hope to you (list ideas on board)? (eternal life that begins now…best day of my life is ahead of me…this is the only hell I will ever know…to a nonbeliever, this is the only heaven they will know). How do these descriptions give you a sense of joy right now…despite your circumstances.
    - Patient in Affliction-Ever have something that afflicted you that required patience?
    - Faithful in Prayer-How would you teach someone to pray? (We cannot assume people know how to pray) Why pray? (not to change God’s mind..so then what? 911 call only? This is not faithful prayer. How do we move away from ‘give us stuff’ prayer?)
      * PRAY Method
        + P-raise
        + R-epent (be specific. Hard to do, but worth it to open us to change)
        + A-sk
        + Y-ield (have your way with me God)
      * 6 Targets of the Lord’s Prayer
        1. Praise—“hallowed be thy name”
        2. Kingdom Come—In me, around me, in the world
        3. His Will-to be done
        4. Provision-Daily Bread (connect to Personal Worship and manna from heaven…enough for one day, can’t carry over to tomorrow)
        5. Forgiveness/Confession
        6. Temptation – not just forgiveness from sin, but help me not to be tempted by sin.
        + 1-3—Toward God
        + 4-6—Human Need
      * Authentic Disciples do not just tell people to pray, they model it “This is how you pray” This is what Jesus did with his disciples.

Transition: What was the loving thing Jesus did for his disciples (his community)?

* Ideas include 1 Cor 13,
* Direction-Investment in their lives; in their training; in his plan. He was going to love the world through them.
* Serving in love means the training of the 12.
* You can see this in Jesus last days—when the end is near, you tend to think about what is most important…Let’s look at Jesus’ prayer on the night before he died.

John 17 “Jesus Priestly Prayer”

What do we know about the Gospel of John-

* Thursday was a defining moment for John. He spends chs 13-19 on just that one night. 1/3 book. It must have been significant to him.
  + 13-washing feet; 14-promise of HS; 15-vine, world hate you; 16-Work of Spirit; 17-Jesus prayer
* Referred to as “the one whom Jesus loved”—12 disciples, 3 inner circle, one whom he loved
  + Resting his head on Jesus’ shoulder (asking “who will betray) 13:22-25 MSG
  + Crucifixion (Take care of my mother) 19:26-27
  + Tomb (outran Peter, but didn’t go in) 20:1-10
  + Lake 21:7

17 (or more)—look at how jesus prays through your lens of discipleship. What do you notice? What is Jesus praying for?

1. *Jesus prays for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Himself\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

* Read 17:1-3—What are you seeing? What does Jesus pray for?
  + Who is he praying about? The disciples, chosen by the Father. That’s why in discipleship we pray that God sends us the men and women we are to disciple.
  + What’s eternal life? That they may know you—Personal relationship with Christ.

1. *Jesus \_\_\_\_prays\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for His disciples*

* *Read v4-6--*
  + *Finished-different word than the cross (teleo)-“it is paid”). On the cross, salvation. But here it is different (teleioo) To make perfect, to complete, to accomplish. What did he finish? Training of the 12!*
  + *V5-Imagine overhearing Jesus talking to his father—remember what it was like when we created the world together?*

1. *Jesus prays for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_You and I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

* Read v. 20
  + Only place where jesus prayed for us.

This High Priestly prayer can be broken up in three categories –Jesus prays for himself, his disciples, and you and me.

* For himself—what did Jesus pray for?
* For his disciples—what was Jesus praying about?
* For you and me—what was Jesus asking of God?

And it worked!

The point? Jesus had a plan to reproduce himself in the lives of others…do we have a plan? Will we be able to say to a group of men or a group of women…it is finished?

***Serving in Love is investing in the lives of fellow believers so that they may be fully mature disciples****.*

So this verse, can be summed up as Serving in Love to other believers is focused on authentic community.

Romans 12:9-13 is focused on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Authentic Community\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This happens when…

* *The real \_\_\_\_you\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ v.9*
* *Meets \_\_\_\_\_real\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ needs v.10*
* *\_\_\_For the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ right reasons v.11*
* *In the \_\_\_\_right way\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ v.12-13*

Next Week’s Homework….Memorize Romans 12:14-21

***14****Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.* ***15****Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.* ***16****Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

***17****Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.* ***18****If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.* ***19****Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.* ***20****On the contrary:*

*“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”[c]*

***21****Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*