Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Missions- Part 2

Important Note

This week's study will look a little different. There is no video clip. Instead, we'll reflect directly on the key themes from the message and Scripture together.

Introduction

This discussion is a continuation of last week's message presented by our guest speaker from the mission field. The lessons here are applicable to everyday Christian living and discipleship. The Church is composed of the people of God, therefore, as Christians grow spiritually, the Church grows. This often comes at a personal cost, as being a disciple of Jesus fundamentally involves laying down our 'rights' as we follow Him as Lord and Saviour.

Read Galatians 3:28, Matthew 16:24-26, John 5:19-20.

Discuss

Leaders: Select 3-4 questions that spark meaningful conversations and discern where God is leading – no need to answer them all.

1. In some cultures and even church denominations, women are not allowed to be in leadership roles. Here at Crossway, we believe that everyone can serve based on their giftings, regardless of gender or status. Have you personally experienced or observed a situation where someone was not allowed to serve in a particular role because of their gender or some other limiting criteria? Are there situations where culture may need to take precedence in this matter?
2. Read Romans 12:4-8 . What are some of the giftings or talents described here? What is Paul challenging the Church to do with these gifts? Do any of the gifts resonant with you?

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3. We are called to serve based on our giftings, talents and passions, not because of our gender or status. What do you think your giftings may be, and how do you think you can serve in these areas?
4. Read Matthew 10:37-29. What is your understanding of this teaching in regard to our relationships with our parents and children in comparison to our relationship with Christ? Have you experienced or observed a situation where you or someone else had to choose?
5. Discipleship often comes with sacrifice, though the kind of sacrifice experienced in Western societies is often quite different from what believers face in places where following Christ brings persecution. What kind of sacrifices or persecution can Christians in the Western world face? How can one still have hope despite the sacrifices made, according to Matthew 19:29?
6. In Matthew 16:24, Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." What does it mean to 'deny' oneself and 'take up the cross'? How has this been true for you – that is, what did you have to 'deny' or what 'cross' did you have to bear when you began following Jesus?
7. Review John 5:19-20. What does Jesus mean when he says he can only do what he sees his Father doing? How can we follow his example?

Who's Your Person of Peace?

A person of peace is someone who loves you, serves you and listens to you. It is likely that God is already working in their lives. God may have placed them in your world so that you can connect with them and invite them to read the Bible with you. Like Jesus, we can do only something where God is already working in someone's life. Who might be that Person of Peace in your life right now?

Respond

Let us make a fresh commitment to follow Jesus despite the cost of discipleship – he is worth it because he loves us and he is Lord. When we trust him enough to lose our lives for him, we discover our life's full potential and meaning. Take a few moments with your group to make this fresh commitment to follow and serve Him. What do you think God is currently challenging you to sacrifice for His sake?