

GOING DEEPER
June 27 & 28, 2020

Title: Reimagine: The Posture of the Church

Teacher: Wayne Alguire

Text: Ephesians 1:13-14, Hebrews 11:8, 1 Peter 2:9

Discussion Questions:

The posture of the church is threefold: Upward in worship. Inward in formation. Outward in witness.

LOOK AT THE WORD

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! (Ephesians 3:20, 21)

In shifting our posture of look upwards to the glory of God, we acknowledge the larger story of God in creation. Read Ephesians 1:13-14. What difference does it make knowing that God has marked you as someone who will contribute to His story?

Furthermore, because He will do more than all we ask or imagine, what are examples of God's story being more than what was expected to those we read about in the Bible; those who were marked by Him? (e.g. Abram, Moses, David, Daniel, Elijah, and so on)

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:17)

Read the scriptures referred to by Wayne (Colossians 2:6-7, 3:12-17). What are postures, throughout the story of God, that show all things being done in His name? What aspects of the posture help you to identify this? (Hint: Galatians 5:22-26, Ephesians 4:17-32)

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. (Hebrews 11:8)

God is a sending agent. He never leaves you where you are and He expects you to move.

See Genesis 12:1-3, Hebrews 11:8, Galatians 4:4-5

Where are you standing in your posture toward God? What move do you sense God is calling you to make? How are you seeing this affirmed by your small group, the scriptures, the prayers? (e.g. a move towards a personal characteristic like patience OR a move towards acting on your spiritual gifts, like hospitality, etc.)

LOOK INWARD

“Christianity is now almost impossible to explain, not because the concepts aren't intelligible, but because the living, moving, speaking examples of our faith don't line up with the message. Our poor posture overshadows the most beautiful story and reality the world has ever known.” Posture matters. – Hugh Halter

What does your current posture look like? What inward practices help you 'take every thought captive' or move your heart closer to the heart of God?

“The Church is where we learn the scriptures and how to pray, discover and deploy spiritual gifts, grow into full maturity and become like Jesus Christ.”

The story of God moves towards moving you back into the *imago Dei* (the image of God) that you were created to be. This means Jesus' work is not just about saving you from your sin, but also showing the Way to reflect the image of God as you live.

In what ways is your participation in the Church helping you to learn about scriptures, prayer, spiritual gifts and to become like Jesus?

Posture Check: What practices of Jesus do you currently use to help move towards maturity?

Consider this list of practices: Scripture, silence & solitude, prayer, study, sabbath/rest, simplicity, play, service, care for your body, emotional health, family, community.

LOOK OUTWARD

James, Paul, and us: To be all things to all people (1 Cor 9:19-23), to not make it difficult for people who are turning to God (James 2:12-13), do all that you can to live in peace with everyone (Romans 12:18)

We are called to be salt and light to the world, showing them a first hand experience about living in the Kingdom of God, to build others up as they seek first that Kingdom.

Who is currently in your circle of influence that you are showing the upward and inward?

Pray that God would help you become more aware of who needs to see your posture shift: who needs you to shift their posture towards them?

SO WHAT:

Upward: How will you bring glory to God this week?

Inward: How will you take another step of growth in following Jesus this week?

Outward: Who will you move towards this week with the good news?

NEVER STOP PRAYING

- *Pray that God would work through our members meeting this Tuesday, June 30; for the Holy Spirit to live and move in and through us*
- *Praise God for working through the health challenges of Kathy & Judy*
- *Pray for warmer weather and the success of the crops at Helen's Acres*
- *Praise God for His work through the Prayer Summit*
- *Pray that God continues to transform lives, soften hardened hearts and give revelation to the many ways He is working*
- *Thank God for the continued, discerning opening of BC into Phase 3, and the guidance of our provincial leaders*
- *Pray for the Mark & Melissa Stetson as they mourn the passing of baby Isla*