

## Sermon Text Discussion Notes 9/23/19

Ephesians Chapters 1-6; Discipleship is Impossible Without the Church

### Overview

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It is impossible for us to be disciples who make disciples without the church. John shared ten reasons from Ephesians 1-6. Without the church:

1. We miss the magnitude of God's blessing (1:1-14)
2. We miss the transformative power of the gospel (1:15-2:10)
3. We miss the manifold wisdom of God (3:7-3:13)
4. We miss the fullness of God's overflowing love (3:14-21)
5. We miss the gifts given by God for our growth (4:7-14)
6. We miss the growth provided by others (4:15-16)
7. We miss opportunities to tangibly express our faith to others (4:17-5:21)
8. We miss the beauty of what marriage pictures (5:22-23)
9. We miss the offensive and defensive weapons given for spiritual warfare (6:10-20)
10. We miss opportunities for personal comfort and encouragement (6:21-24)

### Quotations

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"Our radical overemphasis on a personal relationship with God is an American—not a biblical—theological construction. What we find in the Bible, rather, is a God who seems at least as concerned with His group (me in relationship with my brothers and sisters in Christ) [that is, the church], as He is with the individual (me in relationship with God)." Joseph Hellerman, *When the Church Was A Family*

"We should not ... think of our fellowship with other Christians as a spiritual luxury, an optional addition to the exercises of private devotion. We should recognize rather that such fellowship is a spiritual necessity; for God has made us in such a way that our fellowship with himself is fed by our fellowship with fellow-Christians, and requires to be so fed constantly for its own deepening and enrichment." – J.I. Packer

### Understanding & Application

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1. John shared that biblically speaking discipleship always involves three critical elements: transformation, replication, and multiplication. Explain the meaning and importance of each of those elements.
2. What is important about the choice of pronouns in Ephesians 1:3-14? What do we miss if we overlook these pronouns?
3. Think about Joseph Hellerman's quote above; how have you been influenced and shaped by individualistic American culture? How can we push back against this in our lives?
4. Do any of the 10 reasons listed above stand out to you? Why? Are you surprised by any of them?

Ephesians Chapters 1-6

Discipleship is Impossible Without the Church

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5. Interact with this statement: orthodoxy must lead to orthopraxy. That is, right doctrine must lead to right living. Can you find any examples where Paul calls the Ephesian Christians to live in right relation to each other? Do you need to heed the same call?