

Introduction:

- Heb 9:9-14
- Key thought: you have to be able to lead yourself well or disciple yourself to be a good discipler.
- A true reformation is not a new way of doing something or doing church.
 - A true reformation is a fresh understanding of who God is inside the human heart which translates into new a powerful action, ambitions and drives.
 - What happens on the inside results in new activities launched on the outside.
 - When personal transformation takes place it becomes an initiator for reformation in the body of Christ/the ekklasia/the church.
 - Lets read our scripture again.
- Define reformation:
 - διορθωσις - diorthosis - this word means upright, standing. It means to move in a straight line to correct. The dio on the front of the word means to straighten, or correct.
 - We get our word 'ortho' as in orthopedic doctor. A doctor of bones or skeletal structures. When a bone is broken we need diorthosis, a straightening or putting back together, a bringing into alignment. Or if you are seeing a chiropractor, also an ortho doctor they function in aligning bones.
 - So a true reforming or reformation is an internal change of understanding, mentalities, attitude and perceptions. These internal changes shape the external activities of both the Christian and the church. So reformation has to do with re-structuring the internal structure...the bare bones that hold everything together.
 - What is the 'skeletal structure' of excellent disciples. What is required to build something/a life that will stand? The internal structure that produces a powerful external life in Christ.

I. Disciples do not just happen they are built.

- A. Built is a key word. If it has been built then someone intentionally did it.
- B. This is an intentional process.
 1. Disciple - is a person who has put his faith in Jesus Christ, is committed to governing his life by Jesus teaching, and passionately pursues Jesus mandate as his own personal mission. Do you see the intentionality that is in this definition?
 2. Discipler - is a person who understands the importance of making disciples and intentionally enters into relationships with other disciples teaching them to obey the commands of Jesus and equipping them to teach and make disciples of others as well.
 3. *"Discipling is an intentional relationship in which we walk alongside other disciples in order to encourage, equip, and challenge another in love to grow toward maturity in Christ. This includes teaching the disciple to teach others as well."* Greg Ogden - *Discipleship Essentials*, p.17
- C. So one of the key that must define us as Christians is that we are intentionally building our Christian lives. Meaning...my life must be built. It will not just happen.
 1. My identity in Christ.
 2. My marriage and family.
 3. My key relationships in my life.

4. One key component of your internal structure is building. When you do this intentionally you will encounter God and find his plans for your life.

II. I Must Know God! Not Just Know About Him

- A. When we seek to know God we encounter Him. Encountering Him means that I have had a personal experience with Him. I know about President Trump but I have not met him, yet. When I do, and we have coffee, I will have actually encountered him and can say I know him.
 1. Many people read the Bible and come to know about God, but they lack their own personal encounter.
 2. Personal encounter often happens when we take time to meditate on the Word and God moves a truth from our head to our heart.
- B. Our prayer becomes, "Holy Spirit, reveal Jesus to me." "Reveal the Father..."
- C. We seek for Him as for hidden treasure. I must know the nature of God to be able to trust Him. It is not the nature of God to back hand us, cheat us, despise us or hurt us. That is not who He is.
- D. This portion of our 'internal skeletal structure' causes us to discover revelation! We know Him as he is because He has been revealed to us. We now SEE Him!

III. A Solid Internal Foundation of Integrity

- A. I must look at my life and review my integrity, my morals, my character and make the necessary adjustments so as to build according to Kingdom Principles.
- B. Love is a major portion of this foundation, as well as the other fruit of the Spirit.
- C. Tithes and offering are Kingdom Principles.
- D. Consider others better than yourself is a kingdom principle.
- E. Integrity is having a system of moral principals and practices. They are righteous in nature.

IV. I Must See My Life As Part of A Great Whole

- A. As a believer, you are a member of the body of Christ. How you function affects others. Isolation and separation is not an option.
- B. Each member supplies grace to the whole. In other words, you have something that I need and require in the Kingdom. And I have something that you require in the Kingdom our connectedness give us MASS. And mass when it is moved gains momentum. Mass results in influence.
- C. Think of these Biblical terms
 1. Body of Christ - all members and differing 1 Cor 12
 2. Holy Nation - Citizens of the Kingdom Eph 2:20
 3. Family of God - Father and brother and sister in Christ Ps 68:8
 4. The Bride of Christ - these are the righteous saints Rev. 19:7-8
- D. Almost all prophetic word given to individuals in scripture had profound corporate impact. Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, David. The early church was all about community.

V. Leadership Is A Part Of Your Life

- A. You first learn to lead yourself by intentionally building you own life. Our definition for disciple is: One who has put their faith in Jesus, **Governs** their live Jesus teaching and passionately pursues Jesus mandate of making disicples. "Governs their lives" is about internal leadership.

1. The voice of God provide internal direction.
 2. Ie. When I got saved dating totally changed. In fact I did not date. And when I did start 'dating' Kelly I knew she was the one.
- B. As you successfully do that you will begin to lead family, job, ministry, community events, etc.
- C. This is all part of "leading others to Christ" and leading in the body of Christ.

VI. We Must Adopt A Long Term Strategic Perspective

- A. We must not be in a hurry to walk this out. Diligent yes, but not in a hurry.
1. Disciples are built over time.
 2. We must also realize that what we are building is generational and intended to live beyond our lifetime.
- B. Don't be afraid of time. The voice of God is eternal! He sees beyond the moment and into the generations. We all fit into God's eternal plans and purpose. What seem exciting for the moment to us is one breath fit into the plan of God for the future...or our lives and generations after us.
1. Joseph was that kind of man. He had dreams that moved his young heart but God had to take him through somethings before he fit into God's divine plans and purposes.
 2. God had to make the man before he could lead Egypt and not destroy his brothers when they showed up.
 - a) His father did not understand him and failed to protect him.
 - b) His brothers sold him into slavery
 - c) Potiphar believe his wicked wife
 - d) And the prison system held an innocent man for five years.
 - e) Yet Joseph came out of prison without offense. How does one survive such dysfunction, and offense. His internal structure was accurate in God. He built for the long haul. *"They bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar. Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph's character."* (Psalm 105:18-19, NLT)

Conclusion2

Mt. 28:18,19,20 "As you go (wherever and however you go in the course of your lives), (I am commanding you to) MAKE DISCIPLES of all peoples (of every race), baptizing them (those who believe) in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe (to be obedient to) all that I have commanded you; and, yea I am with you always, even to the end of the age."