Salem BC   6.20.21

"So, You Wanna Be Like Christ?"

Text: I Timothy 4:7

1. God knows the secret to helping you to become the "_____ POSSIBLE" you. As the Master Grower, He seeks to remove everything from our lives that might prevent us from receiving the fullest measure of His growth producing love.

Jesus declared: "I am the true vine; my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch of mine that does not produce fruit. And he trims and cleans every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. ₅ I am the vine, and you are the branches. If any remain in me and I remain in them, they produce much fruit. But without me they can do nothing." (Jn. 15:1-2, 5).

2. In order to grow into "fully devoted and developed" followers of Jesus Christ, we must do whatever is needed to keep ourselves in a personal, intimate, _____ - _____ relationship with God.

3. God will NOT work within the framework of our complicated schedules. We have to _____ to His style. In other words, we need to _____ to His way if our lives are to be characterized by the all-encompassing word "godliness." God calls us, His followers, to a life of "godly" living.

4. What exactly does "godly" living mean?

A. living in the manner that God _____ us to live;

B. It means having the same feelings, _____ & heart's desires that God has.

C. It means that we _____ the things that God loves, care for the things that God cares for, & _____ those things which He dislikes.

D. God loves _____ - living, therefore, a godly person will also love God-honoring living;

E. God hates sin, therefore, a godly person will also _____ sin;

F. A God-honoring person will likewise want God's _____ to be done & to sing the praises of God in everything he/she does.

"Discipline yourself (condition yourself) for the purpose of God-honoring living."

5. The discipline that leads us to intimacy with God will _____ & perfect the way we think and mold our moral character. Discipline is control gained by enforced _____. It is the deliberate cultivation of inner order.