

Directions

Part 3 – Do What You Know to Do

Misconception: God delights in hiding His will from those who would follow it.

- This is rooted in a wrong concept of God because He is Father, Friend, Counselor
- He has clearly revealed His will in His Word – those who know His Word the best know His will the best.

Relate Rightly to God (John 6.38-40)

- Put confidence in Jesus Christ
- Objection: this is horribly exclusive
- Response: it is a universal offer for all who believe

Be Grateful (1 Thessalonians 5.18)

- Be thankful *in* all things, not *for* them
- Enjoy His blessings *and* return thanks
- Endure hard times *and* find something for which you're thankful

Be Pure (1 Thessalonians 4.3-8)

- Control your body and not let its impulses control you (v.4-5)
- Do good to others and not defraud them (v.6)
- Pursue holiness and wholeness in sexuality (v.7-8)

Connect with Church (2 Corinthians 8.1-5)

- The expression was money but the principle was connection
- Church is a family: a network of committed relationships
- It is not God's will that we do life alone – it never has been

Honor Authority (1 Peter 2.13-15)

- Encouraging, affirming, and following godly leadership is our role
- Our conduct is our best response to criticism
- If we cannot submit to authorities we can see, we will not submit to the Authority we cannot see
- To be a person *of* authority is to be a person *under* authority.

*** If you align your life with what God has revealed in His Word, you can trust that He will guide you into specific areas and decisions ***

Questions for Discussion:

1. In the sermon, Trent argued that it's a misconception to believe God delights in hiding His will from those who would follow it. In your most honest self-assessment, how much do you buy into that misconception? If you recognized it in someone else, what would you expect to see (in their activity, attitude, etc.)? What does that say about what you believe about God? Why is it important to qualify that it is for "those who would follow it?"
2. Reread John 6.38-40. How does someone "look on the Son?" How often have you heard or seen people object to Jesus based on exclusivity? Read John 14.6. How would you explain the exclusive / inclusive parts of Christianity to someone who objected?
3. What is the most difficult thing you have endured that you can now give thanks for? Were you able to express gratitude in the midst of it? For what? What is one thing that you are enjoying now that you need to say thanks to God for?
4. Reread 1 Thessalonians 4.3-8. In light of the sexual brokenness of our culture, what do you see in this passage that will bring wholeness? How do its boundaries and its exhortations run counter to our culture? Trent stated in the sermon that one of the lies we believe in this area is that you must be sexually expressive if you are to be a fulfilled human. How does the single / celibacy of Jesus counteract that?
5. What is the single most important memory (or moment) you have when you think about Church? How have you seen the church be a family? Where has it failed? What is your role in helping it become a family? What is one thing you can do this week?
6. Submission to governing authorities in our democratic republic looks different than a first-century empire. Assuming the principle still applies, how do you express honor to those in authority above you? Read Romans 13.1-4. What does this passage add to your thinking?