

Praxis Series
Pathway Principles Part One
08/26/23
Newport News

Opening

-new 7 week series...taking us through most of September

Introduction/Recap

-You and I must decide what we believe is waiting for us after we die, because what we believe about that day should ultimately determine how we live out our lives between now and then.

-Matthew 16:24-27 (Romans 2:5-11)

- Dispelling belief that Christians won't be judged...
- The 5 Solas
- Jesus and the early Apostles: judgment!

-For too many people, churches have become places where people want someone to tell them ALL the right things to do and ALL the wrong things not to do. I have found in over 20 years of pastoral ministry that if we teach people how to be virtuous, most everything else follows!

-The more I become like Christ in virtue, the more I become like Him in deeds.

-A virtuous heart produces Godly deeds.

-(list of 24 virtues)

-How do we become virtuous?

Pathways

-Jeremiah 6:16

-(hold up booklet for people)

-**Scripture, Prayer, Fasting, Worship**

-**Gathering, Reaching, Relationship, Accountability**

-**Service, Generosity, Stewardship, Rest**

>>**Red, Yellow, Green**

-Remember, the 12 Pathways are the work that creates a spiritually vibrant life where virtues can grow.

-**Pathways >> Virtues >> Godly Deeds**

Pathway Principles

Principle of concurrence...1 Corinthians 12/Ephesians 4 (prin. of concurrence)

They are not preferential but all essential...our personalities and callings might make us more predisposed to some rather than others...but we need all of them active in our lives! (brainstorm some comparatives: getting in shape, finances, relationships...)

Principle of concatenation (the action of linking things together in a series)...Genesis 1

You don't have to have all of them to get started...you pick a few and begin! Perfectionism is one of the greatest thieves of progress because we say if I can't do it all perfectly, I won't do anything...every life transformative journey that lasts is step upon step. (on ramp: Scripture, Gathering, Service)

Principle of completeness...James 1:17

Do you know why extra-marital relationships are so sinful, aside from the pain of being betrayed for the innocent spouse, it is saying to God, what you created for me isn't enough...I don't trust You! Idolatry is an extra-marital affair spiritually, saying to God, "You aren't enough for me." Not that there aren't other experiences in this life that we find meaningful, enriching, enjoyable...but the question we need to ask is are going to them because we haven't first fully embraced these 12? These must be our foundation...building a home needs more than a foundation but if you don't get that part right, there is little hope for anything else!

Principle of connection...Psalm 119:171

(joke about mine and Vanessa's ongoing "conversation" about it all being connected)

- people whose Bible reading dry...proly poor with other Pathways
- service and relationship
- fasting and prayer

Principle of comprehension...John 3:7-8

(talk about how we sometimes first understand with the heart, experience the truth of God in our heart first often)...the intellectual comprehension will come...Deuteronomy 7:9 is Aman El...connect to John 3...touch on 1 Corinthians 2...the mind of Christ...

Principle of conviction...Matthew 5:6 (hunger=to crave, to seek with eager desire/thirst=to long for eagerly) Psalm 23:9

We often only think of this word in the negative but it has a powerful counterpart in the positive - the more I do them, the more I want them. Where an addiction is controlling, the breaking down of our will, convictions are the thoughtful, determined, focused acts of a properly engaged will.

Band

-Luke 14:27-32

-If you are looking for an easier path, an easier message, you can find it, those churches are out there...but not here, why...because we

-Matthew 16:24-27

Close

-decide in the moment