

The Relational Disciple



Instruct One Another

Discipleship groups purpose: Each member being transformed into the image of the Son.

Key Truth: We are instructed by God to teach one another.

Read: We are called as parents to teach our children the ways of God and to instruct them in God's truth and we all readily accept this as a given, but what about when it comes to teaching one another and instructing one another in God and the ways of God? This is where many hearts get exposed for what is truly in them, and depending on what is truly there, determines so much of our response.

Our response will dictate whether we come into life or not and it is one that we must take in to account. I wonder how we would all have responded to Paul's instruction in the below passage.

1 Corinthians 11:17-19

But in giving this instruction, I do not praise you, because you come together not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it. For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you.

How would we have responded if we were on the receiving end of this instruction? Would we be highly offended and walk away in disgust? Would we attack the one who is instructing us? Would we dispute it and justify ourselves out of it, coming up with our own logical excuse, or would we receive it knowing that everything about Paul's heart was for the building up of God's people?

There is so much tension and explosion dynamics at play when it comes to instructing others, hence Paul says he is not surprised about the division. It's interesting the comment he finishes with, when he says that there must be factions among you, so that those who are approved become evident. The instruction of one another is all part of the true building work of God within us and bringing us to become a mature people.

Questions:

1. Share a positive experience of someone instructing you in Christ?
2. Share a negative experience of someone instructing you in Christ?
3. What made the experience positive and negative?
4. Why is it so important the spirit of humility is present in both people when it comes to giving instruction in Christ?
5. How easy do you find it to give instruction and what is generally your response to receiving instruction from one another?

Pray and encourage one another to press in to all God has for us.