



Who is CRCC...2017!

Building According to the Pattern by the Grace of God

TEXT REVISIT: MATTHEW 5:19-20

- When we were last considering this Text, we said that one of the teachings our LORD was putting forth was an attitude.
- *Recall, an attitude is a **stance**; a disposition; a mental frame of mind. It is a “settled way of thinking or feeling about someone or something, typically one that is reflected in a person's **behavior**.”*
- The King was teaching Kingdom subjects “how” they are to view His *precepts, principles, and patterns!*
- We have come to believe that “*God desires that our Love for Him be expressed by a joyful, careful, passionate, volitional obedience to Scripture! Christ wants our love for Him to produce a mindset that says, “I will not ignore one jot or tittle of His Word; I will not relax even the least of His Commandments, nor will I teach others to do so!”*”
- What Christ commands in our Text is a life that is constantly **adjusting** to the Word of God.
- **Friends, this attitude describes our church. Everything became (and is becoming) subject to His will.**
- This of course, is how our Lord humbly walked...

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

SOME TRUTHS ABOUT CHANGE:

1. There are many terms and expressions in Scripture that command change: to grow up in all things, to be built up, to be sanctified, to follow Him, to study the Word, to keep the precepts, to be trained in righteousness, to learn, to put off the old man, to be a new creature in Christ, to be perfect or mature, to press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus!
2. Even our Vision, which is about **discipleship** (in Greek, “a learner”) is about consistent change. To be a disciple is to change!
3. We all (well, most of us) want to grow, but **resist** change!
4. “Change is **painful**. Few people have the courage to seek out change. Most people won’t change until the pain of where they are exceeds the pain of change.” —Dave Ramsey
5. Even the things we pray for (blessing, prosperity, healing, salvations, a Closer Walk with Christ) means we are praying for...you guessed it...Change!

So let’s talk about how our church has changed...

FROM HIP HOP TO HEAD COVERINGS: 20 YEARS OF STUDYING SCRIPTURE!

When our church began in April 1997, I was 27 years old. Today, I'm 47. Then, "I" had lots of ideas about how to reach people. I praise the LORD for the precious souls He allowed to be saved and transformed in the early years. What a merciful and loving God we serve!

During 20 years of prayer, fasting, and studying God's Word, I slowly began to realize a truth: **Scripture is sufficient and must regulate the Church; both what we believe (our orthodoxy) and how those beliefs are practiced (orthopraxy) must line up with God's Word. There is a holy pattern we must follow...**

1Ti 3:14-15 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: 15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

2Ti 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2Pe 1:19-21 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Psa 119:4 Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.

Pro 2:1-6 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; 2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; 3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; 5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Pro 3:1-6 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: 2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: 4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

By God's grace, CRCC began to progress in sanctification (2 Thes 2:13) and holiness (2 Cor 7:1; 1 Thess 4:7); we began to "grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Pet 3:18). These are GREAT THINGS!

THE POWER OF THE KINGDOM LIFE!

May I be honest? I believe the King...

- Wants you to have an abundant life (John 10:10)
- Wants you to walk in victory (1 John 5:4)
- Wants you to passionately pursue Him (John 15:7)
- Wants your marriage to model Him and His Church (Eph 5:22:33)
- Wants you to raise godly children (Eph 6:4)
- Wants you to walk in victorious holiness (1 Thess 4:7)
- Wants your body and soul to prosper (3 John 1:2)
- Wants you to walk unashamedly in the power of the Gospel! (Rom 1:16)
- Wants you to walk in joy! (John 15:11)

Hallelujah!

So the King began to teach us the Kingdom Life for our GOOD! The LORD began to teach us certain principles and often neglected biblical doctrines. Some of you might remember:

- Expository Preaching...teaching the Word in books instead of bits. :)
- Jesus is Enough! "...to live is Christ, and to die is gain!" (Php 1:21)
- What Gospel-centered, biblical evangelism looks like
- The need to reestablish holiness
- Biblical manhood and womanhood
- The pattern of parents taking charge of discipleship and education
- The pattern in scripture of worshiping with our children (i.e., family integration)
- The nature of church leadership
- Inculcating a biblical worldview
- More time in prayer and times of consecration
- Increased reverence on the LORD's Day
- Modesty, propriety, humility
- Having a weekly LORD's table
- Giving to the poor and blessing other nations

I can honestly say that when we started, almost none of these things were on our spiritual radar. What changed? **Maturity! Growth! We've been praying, fasting, and studying the Bible for 20 years!** Assuming one's heart is consistently submitted to Christ, how can one not change in the presence of God for two decades?

BUILDING ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN

2Ti 1:13-14 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

2 Ti 1:13 ESV Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

The *Pattern* can be described as:

The fundamental doctrines, expressions, and traditions given to the Church by Christ through the New Testament writers.

The *Pattern* is simply:

“Who Christ intended His church to be, what He intended it to teach, and the way He designed it to operate. All of this is clearly illustrated in the New Testament.”

The Apostle Paul often encouraged the church to build according to the Scriptures, which is another way of saying, “follow the pattern.” He also called it “holding to the traditions” they were taught (1 Cor 11:2; 2 Thes 2:15). This is no small matter. He wrote to the church at Thessalonica:

- *2Th 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.*
- *2Th 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.*

Another way he preached this *pattern principle* was his call to imitate him. He said to the church at Corinth:

- *1Co 4:16-17 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. 17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.*

FINAL THOUGHT:

Friends, CRCC is simply trying to follow the pattern of scripture. We have come to believe that we cannot beat God at blessing others! The best way for us to Reach, Teach, and Release other people is through the Power of Jesus Christ. We CANNOT and WILL NOT walk consistently in that power unless we remain teachable and lovingly obey His Word by faith.

May we give our all attempting to humbly do just that, for His glory alone.

LORD Jesus, may our hearts burn for Thee and “run the way of thy commandments.” (Ps 119:32)

Psa 119:33-40 Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. 35 Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. 36 Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to

covetousness. 37 Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. 38 Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear. 39 Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good. 40 Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness.

Amen.

FAMILY WORSHIP/PERSONAL DEVOTIONS:

1. Before you leave today, pick up a copy of *Who is CRCC 2016*, and read it a couple of times this week.
2. PLEASE! :)
3. Make adjustments according to what you read! CHANGE! :)