



Whole-life Discipleship

Introduction

The purpose of this study is to reflect on the connection between our call to whole-life discipleship and our call to creatively reach out with the good news of Jesus.

Bible study

Read Colossians 3:1-17.

Question 1

A common definition of culture is, “The way we do things around here.” A more detailed definition might be “the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.” How does Paul contrast the culture associated with the “new self” (10) with that of the “old self” (9) or “earthly nature” (5)?

Question 2

Colossians 3:11 lists various identities that might have been significant to Paul’s readers. What is Paul saying about these various identities and their cultures?

Question 3

Why do identity and culture matter when it comes to discipleship and sharing the good news?

Question 4

“Let every detail in your lives – words, actions, whatever – be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.” (Colossians 3:17, *The Message*)

What does it mean to do something in the name of someone else? How would you apply that principle to discipleship and sharing the good news of Jesus? If Jesus was in the room with you now, what might he be saying?

Application

Watch the video for this session. This video is available from https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/541002/Where_do_we.aspx.

Question 5

In the video Ken lists some of the aspects that the themes of missional communities and whole-life discipleship share in common. Both

- honour what we currently do, but say that we must think beyond that
- have a soft distinction between evangelism and discipleship



- are not about a new or novel programme
- have the language of 'out there' rather than 'in here'
- have a theology that emphasises the lordship of Christ everywhere
- have the idea of not doing more in the life of our church, but doing or emphasising different
- emphasise us going to people rather than people coming to us
- ask, "What is God doing already and how can we join in with that?"
- imply a different use of language
- are about moving and changing the culture of church

To what extent do you share the view that the themes of missional communities and whole-life discipleship overlap? Where else do you see overlaps? Which phrases resonate most with you?

Question 6

"Culture eats vision for breakfast." If culture is such a powerful determinant of change, how can we shape the culture in our church to better reflect the values of Christ?

Question 7

Think about yourself, your small group, and your church: what resources do you have already that you can draw on to move forwards with the themes of discipleship and creatively reaching out with the good news of Jesus? What resources don't you have that you might benefit from? How might you secure those?

Taking it forward

Watch the feedback video for this session. This video is available from https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/541002/Where_do_we.aspx.

Looking back over the whole series, and thinking about the central question 'Where do we grow from here?' in addition to the theme of this study, what *one thing* do you need to pray about and apply for yourself? What practical steps will you take to move forwards with this one thing?