

KINDRED CHURCH



**FIVE**

# FOUNDATIONAL ACTIVITIES

OF A TRUE FOLLOWER OF CHRIST



## A NOTE FROM PASTOR ROD

# INTRODUCTION

Years ago I wrote a document for myself talking about “What kind of church I would like to pastor.” It was written in a time of discouragement and seeking the Lord. I wanted to pastor the “Perfect church.” Well come to find out, the perfect church only exists in one place...heaven. So instead of the perfect church I have turned my attention to the “perfect christian.” Well, much like before I found that none of us will obtain perfection until we arrive in that perfect church...in heaven.

So while there are no perfect churches and no perfect christians there are churches and christians striving for perfection. We call it Christlikeness. If you want to increase the Christlikeness in your life I believe there are at least 5 things you need to be busy with in order to increase in this quality.

The following 5 days I am asking that you will read, study and meditate on these 5 foundational activities and measure your current state against them. Seek the Lord and ask Him to show you ways to become more like Jesus. Who knows? Maybe this will lead to a fresh wind and fire in your life that will reinvigorate you and strengthen you.

God bless you as you begin this study. I hope you find it rewarding. Thanks for taking the time,

*Rod*



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## DAY ONE

# GET ON THE ROAD TO DISCIPLESHIP

Christian discipleship is at the core of our faith journey. It's not just about believing in Jesus, but about following Him wholeheartedly and becoming more like Him each day. Today, we'll explore what it means to be a true disciple of Christ and how we can live out this calling in our lives.

## TODAY'S 3 CHALLENGES...

### #1 Commit Fully to Christ

We are called to be fully committed **FOLLOWERS** of Jesus. Not just fans or even just believers. Nope Jesus calls us to be **FOLLOWERS**.

This starts by surrendering our will to God's purpose. Listen to what Jesus said in **Luke 9:23** *"And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'"* To be a follower of Christ you make a choice to deny yourself and take up our cross and follow Jesus.

So how do we do that?

We have to prioritize our relationship with Jesus. How important is Jesus to you really? We are told by Jesus in that famous Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew 6:33** *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*

Man that can be hard when faced with some of the choices that life confronts us with. How do you know if you're putting God's kingdom first? Ask yourself this question: When I need guidance to make decisions, where do I go first? For many Christians, God is like a spare tire. He's the One they run to when all else fails. So, do you seek God's perspective first (through his Word and godly counsel), or do you seek the world's perspective? Kingdom Christians appeal to God's view and his righteous standards first. Do this, and all these things will be provided for you. Align yourself with his agenda, and your heavenly Father will take responsibility for meeting your needs.

# GET ON THE ROAD TO DISCIPLESHIP

## #2 Grow in Knowledge and Love for God

Let me ask you a question: How are you doing when it comes to studying and meditating on God's Word? Listen to what God told the people of Israel in **Joshua 1:8** ***“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”***

Ultimately, success for a Christian is fulfilling your God-given purpose in life. To do that, you (like Israel) must meditate on Scripture and carefully observe everything written in it. To meditate on something is to roll it over and over in your mind in much the same way that a cow chews its cud. When you do, the Word of God is driven deeply into your soul so that your actions can be driven by God's perspective rather than your feelings or opinion.

Let me ask you another question: How's your prayer life? One of the greatest things you can do for yourself and for the kingdom of God is to cultivate a vibrant prayer life. Paul wrote in **Colossians 4:2** ***“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”*** Always remember that we stand tallest and strongest on our knees because this is when we are humbled before God and dependent upon His power. As we talk with Him, listen to Him, and allow Him to speak to our hearts through His Word, we receive His wisdom and direction. And as we obey Him in faith, He works mightily to show us the victory.

# GET ON THE ROAD TO DISCIPLESHIP

### #3 Live Out Your Faith in Action

We do this by serving others with love and compassion. Look at what Peter wrote in **1 Peter 4:10** *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:”*

We all have different gifts or talents that the Lord has given us so that we might serve one another in love and compassion. Full-service gas stations are hard to find today. Most are self-service. Unfortunately, many attend church like a self-service station. They fill up on preaching and go home until they need more fuel. But God intends his church to be full service with each member providing for the well-being of others. Since you are a receptor of grace, you ought to be a conduit for grace. So whatever your spiritual gift, it's all about God—not you.

This leads me to the next part of being a good steward of the gifts God has given us.

One of the greatest things lacking in the church today is believers who are consistently sharing the Gospel through words and deeds. Jesus in His great sermon on the Mount said in **Matthew 5:16** *“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”* Has anyone ever told you that you are a light burning with the fire of heaven? Your “good works” the world might see you doing are a reflection of your heavenly Father. So this is my last question for this days study: How does your faith cause you to behave differently from anyone else?

Christian discipleship is a lifelong journey of following Jesus, growing in our faith, and living out His teachings in our daily lives. It requires dedication, devotion, and a willingness to demonstrate our faith through our actions. As we commit ourselves to these principles, we become more effective disciples and ambassadors for Christ in the world.

## DAY TWO

# BEING A PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

The fellowship of believers, often referred to as the body of Christ, is a fundamental aspect of the Christian faith. It's not just about attending church services; it's about being intimately connected with other believers in a way that reflects Christ's love and unity. Today, we'll explore the significance of this fellowship and how we can actively participate in it.

### TODAY'S 3 CHALLENGES...

#### #1 Cultivate Genuine Relationships

It saddens me when I see people attend church on a regular basis but never take that next deeper step of commitment to the church. I see so many people never really embracing their spiritual family. That is not how God intends for us to exist in the church. It says in **Romans 12:5** *“so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”* God is never pleased when someone says, “I love Jesus, but I don’t need the church.” No Christian has ever been called to “go it alone” in his or her walk of faith. We need one another and should serve and support each other with love and gladness.

So let’s begin by prioritizing regular gatherings. People have downgraded attending church by thinking it’s just an option and not a necessity or concern of the Lord. The Bible says in **Hebrews 10:24-25** *“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”* Connecting to a vibrant, biblically based, loving church is a critical tool that can steer us away from disobedience so that we can avert sin’s consequences and avoid divine discipline. Believers who are not a functioning part of a local church are living outside of the will of God and limiting God’s work in their lives.

## DAY TWO

# BEING A PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

### #2 Serve with Your Spiritual Gifts

Did you know that you have spiritual gifts that God has given you to use in His church in order to fulfill the call and work of that church? In order to do that we need to start recognizing our unique roles. It says in **1 Corinthians 12:12** ***“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”*** A human body best illustrates what the church is: many parts that are one. Not only does the body consist of a variety of external parts but also many complex internal systems, including the circulatory, respiratory, nervous, skeletal, and digestive systems. Nevertheless (when working properly) all of the parts and systems function together for the good of the whole.

So we **MUST** make it a priority to start using our gifts for the common good. Remember what we read yesterday? **1 Peter 4:10** ***“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:”***

## DAY TWO

# BEING A PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

### #3 Demonstrate Christ-Like Love

Probably the thing I love most about being a pastor is when I see the people of Kindred supporting one another in times of need. We get this from **Galatians 6:2** ***“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”*** Listen, no maturing Christian can ever say, “I don't need the church,” because Jesus tells us that we all have work to do in the church—we must fulfill our role as part of the body. We cannot carry the burdens of those we never interact with. Therefore, we must continue to participate in the work, fellowship, and worship of the church—freely giving of ourselves just as Christ has given Himself to us.

Probably the most discouraging thing I see in the church is when someone, who has been forgiven so much by Jesus, fails to forgive their brother or sister in the church. We **MUST** be a people who are always practicing forgiveness and seeking reconciliation. **Colossians 3:13** ***“bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”*** Forgiveness does not mean approving a sin or excusing evil. Rather, forgiveness means releasing people from obligations incurred by their wrongs against you. What makes forgiveness possible is recognizing that the Lord has forgiven you.

The fellowship of believers is a precious gift from God, designed to strengthen our faith, provide support, and showcase Christ's love to the world. By actively connecting with other believers, contributing our gifts, and caring for one another, we fulfill God's vision for His church and experience the joy of true Christian community.



## DAY THREE

# DEVELOP A LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP

Worship is at the core of our relationship with God. It's more than just singing songs or attending church services; it's an attitude of the heart that permeates every aspect of our lives. Today, we'll delve into what true worship means and how we can cultivate a lifestyle of worship.

## TODAY'S 3 CHALLENGES...

### #1 Recognize God's Majesty

Acknowledging God's holiness and power should be easy because it's all around us. But the world and the devil can sometimes distract us and we miss it. So then it makes it hard to be like David who wrote **Psalm 145:3** *"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable."* David remembers the grand history of God's mighty works through the generations. David doesn't name specific events but praises God for his character and his works in general. This psalm should be even more significant for Christians, because we have a longer history to review than David had.

What kind of memories of experiences do you have that can help you acknowledge the holiness and power of God?

I think another thing we need to be able to do is spend our days approaching God with humility and awe. **Hebrews 12:28** says *"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe."* Sometimes I think we treat God a little too nonchalantly. When we do that it's because we don't get who He truly is. Every earthly security we rely upon can be shaken. However, God wants us to stop trusting the transitory defenses of this world and wholeheartedly devote ourselves to Him. He is completely unwavering and immovable, and His is the only kingdom that will endure. When we build our lives on the foundation of His love, truth, and faithfulness, He will hold us steadfast and every fear will fade.

## DAY THREE

# DEVELOP A LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP

### #2 Respond to God's Love and Grace

Did you know that God wants ALL of you when it comes to worship? There is a part in the bible that tells us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices. **Romans 12:1** *“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”* This means complete and total surrender. It's the difference between what a chicken and a pig bring to a bacon-and-egg breakfast. The chicken makes a contribution; the pig gives everything. What we often try to do with God is give an egg here and an egg there, but God wants sacrifice—the ham and bacon. Only total surrender can be called true worship.

So we start this by expressing our gratitude through praise. David wrote in **Psalm 100:4** *“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!”*

## DAY THREE

# DEVELOP A LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP

### #3 Live Out Your Worship

Man, some things are easy to say and a lot harder to do. I will say that aligning our actions with our worship is pretty hard. Jesus said in **John 4:23** *“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.”*

To worship the Father in Spirit is to have a heart that is in pursuit of an intimate spiritual relationship with the God who is spirit. To worship God in truth is to worship him in a biblically accurate way—through the One who is the truth. God is on the hunt for those who will worship him spiritually through Jesus Christ based on the truth of his Word

One last thing for today. Did you know that serving others is an act of worship? **Hebrews 13:16** *“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”* Sacrifices of words (worship) must be accompanied by deeds of love toward others. That’s what it says in **James 1:27** *“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”* Paul calls material gifts a *“fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable”* to God in **Philippians 4:18**.

True worship goes beyond the walls of a church building or the lyrics of a song. It's a lifestyle of reverence for God, a heartfelt response to His love, and a commitment to live out our faith in practical ways. As we cultivate this kind of worship, we draw nearer to God and become more aligned with His purposes for our lives.

## DAY FOUR

# SERVING IN THE CHURCH

Serving in the church is not just about filling roles or completing tasks; it's about actively participating in God's work and building up the body of Christ. Today, we'll explore the significance of service in the church and how we can embrace our calling to serve.

## TODAY'S 3 CHALLENGES...

### #1 Use Your Gifts for God's Glory

We've talked about this earlier in the week so I won't spend a lot of time here, but it is worth mentioning again the necessity that we recognize our God-given abilities are meant for God's glory and not our own. Remember what Peter said in **1 Peter 4:10** *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:"* Your gifts and talents as well as mine are meant for one purpose mainly and that is to glorify God.

So remember to use your talents for the benefit of the church. **1 Corinthians 12:7** *"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."* At the time we come to faith in Christ, every believer receives at least one spiritual gift—not merely to encourage and build up our own relationship with the Lord, but to edify the entire church. God makes the church interdependent so that we can enjoy the amazing blessings of fellowship with Him and others.

## DAY FOUR

# SERVING IN THE CHURCH

### #2 Serve in Unity with Others

In order to remain unified each believer must gain understanding of our role in the body of Christ. Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 12:12** ***“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”*** There is unity and diversity in the body of Christ. The reason for this passage of scripture is because some Corinthian Christians believed that the use of their particular gift in church meetings was more important than the use of other gifts. ALL of our gifts are VITAL. The church must not allow a particular gift to destroy the church’s unity. Use them for the body.

This means that we must collaborate with fellow believers. **Ephesians 4:16** ***“from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”*** California redwood trees grow to be massive in size and ancient in age. The secret to their stability and longevity is that their roots intertwine. Underground, they’re all interconnected. You can’t mess with one without messing with the whole grove. When fierce winds blow, their connectedness allows them to borrow from one another and stand strong. So it is, Paul says, with the body of Christ, the church.

## DAY FOUR

# SERVING IN THE CHURCH

### #3 Serve with a Selfless Heart

It's hard to emulate Christ's example of servanthood isn't it? But that's who our example to follow is. It's Jesus. Look at **Mark 10:45** ***"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*** God, in Jesus, came to earth, not to rule, but to serve. Jesus didn't call his disciples to walk a path that he wouldn't walk. To serve was the reason he came into the world. When Paul exhorts the Philippians to reject ***"selfish ambition,"*** live with ***"humility,"*** and be concerned for ***"the interests of others"*** (Phil 2:3-4), in fact, he puts Christ forward as the perfect example of selfless, loving, God-honoring service.

This starts by prioritizing others' needs above our own. **Philippians 2:3** ***"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."*** By definition servants serve others, not themselves. The word nothing doesn't allow for exceptions. It would be a lot easier if Paul had said, Don't do most things out of selfish ambition or conceit. That would allow us an escape clause. But "nothing" requires ongoing commitment to humility.

Serving in the church is a vital aspect of our Christian walk. It's an opportunity to steward our gifts, work in unity with other believers, and emulate Christ's selfless example. As we embrace our role in the body of Christ, we not only contribute to the growth and health of the church but also experience personal spiritual growth and fulfillment.

## DAY FIVE

# TELLING OTHERS ABOUT JESUS

Personal evangelism is at the heart of the Great Commission given by Jesus to His followers. It's not just a task for pastors or missionaries, but a calling for every believer. Today, we'll explore what personal evangelism means and how we can effectively share our faith with others.

## TODAY'S 3 CHALLENGES...

### #1 Get Prepared for Evangelism

Evangelism can be so unnatural. It doesn't come easy. I think so many people are afraid of evangelism because they are of the mistaken belief that in order to be effective you have to be some sort of theologian. But that is so far from the truth. Evangelism springs forth when a person is growing in their understanding of the Gospel. Listen to Peter in **1 Peter 3:15** *"but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."* God has never asked for spectators but players who live for their King with righteousness and then give testimony about him with gentleness and respect. Evangelism is telling others what God has done for you and what He has done for them.

Let me ask you a question: If someone were to ask why you are a Christian, what would you say? How would you explain your belief in the Resurrection or lead them to a saving faith in Jesus Christ? If you are allowing the Lord Jesus to work through you, people will notice and will want to know what is different about you. So with gentleness, explain all that Jesus means to you and what He's done out of love for them.

That means cultivating a life that reflects Christ. **Matthew 5:13-16** *"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 'You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.'"* You will rarely see what God is willing to do in secret until He sees what you are willing to do in public.

# TELLING OTHERS ABOUT JESUS

## #2 Develop a Heart for the Lost

I think if there was one thing I could do as a preacher of the Word of God, it would be to help people recognize the urgency of the Gospel message. **Romans 10:14** says ***“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”*** The ministry of preaching Christ is a great honor. So is sharing the message of hope and salvation in Jesus.

We can begin doing that by embracing God's love for all people. What I mean by that is God loves people because He desires for all people to come to Him. Follow Him. **2 Peter 3:9** ***“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”*** Some people believe that because God does not want anyone to perish, He will not allow anyone to be condemned to hell. However, the Lord gave us the free will to either choose or reject the way He has provided for salvation. Christ's sacrifice on the Cross was sufficient to save everyone, but **John 3:18** tells us, ***“He who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*** Understanding that alone would help anyone develop a heart for the lost.



# TELLING OTHERS ABOUT JESUS

### #3 Share the Gospel with Love

We are called to speak the truth in love. Look what Paul wrote in **Ephesians 4:15** ***“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.”*** Truth is what God says about a matter. And it shouldn't be used like a destructive hammer. Rather, it must be spoken with love, which involves compassionately, righteously, and responsibly seeking the well-being of its recipient.

So we must be relying on the Holy Spirit's guidance as we share the gospel with someone. Jesus told His disciples who became Apostles (one who is sent) out into the world what He has done for anyone who wants to share the gospel of Christ. Look in **Acts 1:8** ***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”***

Every time the power of the Holy Spirit is mentioned in Scripture, it is always related to sharing the gospel of truth so that God will be glorified and that people's lives will be changed. He indwells every believer so we can do what the Lord commands us to do—specifically, to be His ambassadors in this world, introducing people to the love and grace of God available to them in Christ. We become effective witnesses only through the power of the Spirit.

Personal evangelism is both a privilege and a responsibility for every believer. As we prepare ourselves, cultivate a passion for the lost, and boldly proclaim the Gospel, we participate in God's redemptive work in the world. Remember, it's not about our eloquence or persuasive abilities, but about faithfully sharing the truth of God's love and letting the Holy Spirit do the work of conviction and conversion.

## LET'S WALK THIS ROAD TOGETHER...

Friend, as you've journeyed through these five days, we hope you've heard more than just the voice of a church—you've heard the voice of a Savior calling you deeper.

Following Jesus isn't meant to be done alone. It's a daily decision, a step-by-step walk, and God has given us the gift of His Church to walk it out together. At Kindred Church, we're not perfect people, but we are a family—imperfectly following a perfect Savior, pursuing Christlikeness with everything we've got. And we want you to be part of that journey.

Whether you're brand new to church or returning after a long time away, we want to meet you where you are and help you take your next step in faith—whatever that may be. Maybe that's finding a bible study group, getting baptized, serving with your gifts, or just sitting down over coffee and asking the big questions. We'd love to walk alongside you.

### So what's next?

We invite you to connect with us. Come chat with one of our pastors or simply show up again next Sunday. We're here, and we're excited to walk with you.

Because the Christian life is about ***pursuit***.  
Let's pursue Jesus together.

With love and hope,  
Your Kindred Church Family



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