

WELCOME TO THE
GREATER RENO
CHURCH OF CHRIST

S E R M O N O U T L I N E & B U L L E T I N

Sunday, February 27, 2022



Today's Study Focus: Discovering True Devotion - What Christians Are Missing Part 8 When we stop to remember that God exists — that He created all that is from nothing; that He sustains everything we know, moment by moment, with just a word from His mouth; that He governs every government on earth; that He entered into his creation, taking on flesh, enduring weakness and temptation, suffering hostility to the point of death, even death on a cross, all to shower us with mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and secure our eternity with Him in paradise — it is stunning, isn't it, that we ignore and neglect him like we do. It is stunning, amazing, and perplexing, and yet so painfully familiar. Everyone who has followed Jesus knows what it is like to be distracted from following Jesus. Now, let's discover what true and unrelenting devotion to Him really is!

☑ **devotion** (noun) religious fervor; stressing zeal and service - **devotion** and the verb **devote** come from the act of taking a vow, **devoted** refers to one's commitment to another through love and loyalty. Miriam Webster

☑ **imitate** (transitive verb) to follow as a pattern, model, or example; to be or appear like, resemble. **synonyms:** copy, emulate. Miriam Webster

True Devotion To Christ Is Our Hearts And Minds Imitating His Hebrews 12:1-3 - Being Like Jesus Requires A Fixation

- 1 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death — even death on a cross! Phippians 2:1-8 (NIV)

"make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind":

"in your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus":

☑ **"In humility value others above yourselves...have the same mindset as Christ Jesus":** It is all too easy for us to read the following description of Jesus and admire it from a distance. God wants us to be awed by it, but also to see it as something that we must enter into and imitate. The ancient Greeks considered lowliness of mind (humility) to be a fault, not a virtue. The pagan and secular idea of manhood is self-assertiveness, imposing one's will on others; when anyone stooped to others he did so only under compulsion, hence his action was disgraceful. The Christian ethical idea of humility could not be reached by the secular mind; it lacked the spiritual soil. Enduring Word Bible Commentary

Imitation Of The Faithful Is The Way To Spiritual Maturity 1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV) - Be Imitators Of Me, As I Am Of Christ

- 9 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case — the things that have to do with salvation. 10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. 11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. 12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. Hebrews 6: 9-12 (NIV)

"he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him":

"imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised":

We must imitate Christ's life and His ways if we are to be truly enlightened and set free from the darkness of our own hearts.

Let it be the most important thing we do, then, to reflect on the life of Jesus Christ.

Thomas a Kempis

Scripture Passages For Further Personal Study: 1 Peter 2:19-24 Christ left you an example to follow. **1 John 4:7-21** We love because He first loved us.



The International Churches of Christ are a fellowship of over 800 churches with more than 100,000 faithful members around the world committed to knowing God and making Him known as He is revealed in the Scriptures. The Greater Reno Church is very proud to be a part of this global church family and community. For more inspiration and information about the work of our churches across the nation and beyond, please go to disciplestoday.org



