



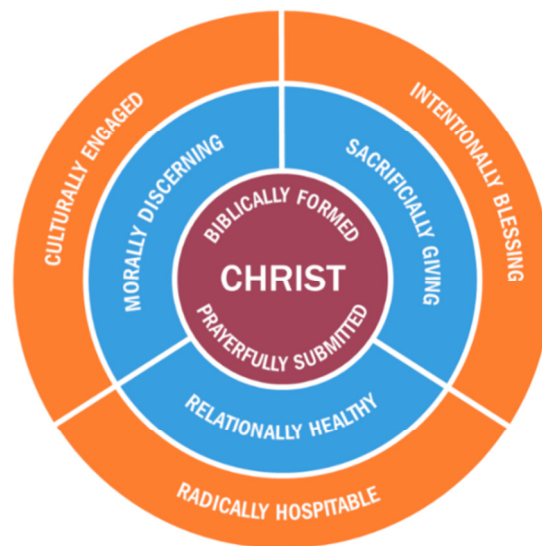
Bullseye: Aiming at Christ

“Biblically Formed”

Week 1 | October 7, 2018

Series Overview: Both discipleship and disciple-making are intertwined, like the double helix of the DNA strand of the Christian life. In August we heard Jesus’ call to discipleship, and in September we looked at his commission to disciple-making. We defined disciples as those who live in such a way that their clear aim is to have the life of Christ reduplicated in them. We want all of Christ; we want to follow all his ways; we want to obey everything that Jesus commanded (Matt 28:18-20).

But *everything* is a pretty broad concept, so we want to encapsulate our discipleship aim and fit it into our mission as a church, which is “to love God, love each other, and love the world that Jesus—through his people—is working to restore.” So, we are picturing our discipleship aim in three concentric circles, corresponding to the upward, inward, and outward dimensions of our mission.



We want to love God through Christ by being biblically formed and prayerfully submitted.

We want to love each other by being relationally healthy, morally discerning, and sacrificially giving.

And we want to extend that community love to the world by being radically hospitable, culturally engaged, and intentionally blessing.

Sermon Summary: We begin this new series focusing on being Biblically Formed. It is impossible to be a disciple of Jesus without the Bible. Jesus had a unique relationship with the scriptures. In Matthew 5:17-20, He tells His disciples that he has not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets (that would be major portions of our current Old Testament) but to actually *fulfill* them. The phrase “That the scriptures might be *fulfilled*...” is a phrase that often gets used when referring to Jesus’ words and actions during his earthly ministry. Everything from His birth to His death and resurrection.

As we consider what it means to be “Biblically Formed” as a disciple of Jesus, we need to realize that the entire scriptures point to Him and our need for Him and utter reliance on Him. This means we have to rethink how we read the scriptures. All too often we read the bible because we think it’s a good source of morals or maybe we use it for inspiration. Others of us would say that we know the scriptures and are “Biblically Formed” but it’s more for head knowledge and never translates to our heart.

Jesus was truly Biblically Formed because all of the scriptures point to Him. His mission, identity, attitudes, and values were informed in the pages of our current Old Testament. He was not just “making it up as He went”. It was all a part of the Father’s plan. By following this plan, He truly *fulfilled* the scriptures. He fulfilled all the rules and laws that we could never keep on our own. Not only that, He took the penalty for our sin through His death to cover over the fact that we could never keep all of those rules. To be Biblically Formed means to let our lives be formed by the words the Bible that point the One he truly did all this for us.

Discussion Questions

1. Look together the “discipleship target” which summarizes what we’re aiming at when we’re aiming to become like Christ. Obviously it can’t be exhaustive, but does it make sense? How does it express values and practices that we’re already aspiring to as a church?
2. What is the typical posture with which you approach reading the bible? In other words, *why* do you read the bible? Did anyone teach you “how” to read the bible? What were you taught?
3. Do you have faith in the Bible as infallible and utterly reliable? Do you see it as the final authority for your faith and practice? If you have any questions or issues, share them with your group. Discuss what it means to really trust the Bible.
4. What does it mean to you to be “biblically formed”? What is that concept all about? Explain it as if you were talking to a brand-new Christian, or to someone who was just inquiring about the faith.
5. What is one area in which you need to be more biblically formed?