



“Living the Life”
Embracing Community pt. 2

May 25, 2008
Sermon Notes

If Christianity is what it claims to be, then it should be producing a type and order of life which is quite exceptional. If therefore, we are to meet the challenge of the modern world we must be living the Christian life; and the question arises how we are to do so.

Martin Lloyd-Jones

Embrace the Goal.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (New International Version)

¹⁸And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect^[a] the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

John 1:14 (New International Version)

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,^[a] who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Matthew 22:36-40 (New International Version)

³⁶Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."^[a] ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[b] ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

#1: Practice Relationship.

1 Peter 2:4-12 (New International Version)

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For in Scripture it says: □ "See, I lay a stone in Zion, □ a chosen and precious cornerstone, □ and the one who trusts in him □ will never be put to shame."^[a] ⁷Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, □ "The stone the builders rejected □ has become the capstone,^[b]^[c] ⁸and, □ "A stone that causes men to stumble □ and a rock that makes them fall."^[d] They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God,

that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

#2: Practice One Another Living.

Romans 15:7 (New International Version)

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

John 13:34-35 (Amplified Version)

³⁴I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another.

³⁵By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves].

Romans 12:5 (New International Version)

⁵so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

#3: Practice Bonding.

Luke 14:26 (New International Version)

²⁶"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.

Mark 3:33-35 (The Message)

³³⁻³⁵Jesus responded, "Who do you think are my mother and brothers?" Looking around, taking in everyone seated around him, he said, "Right here, right in front of you—my mother and my brothers. Obedience is thicker than blood. The person who obeys God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

#4: Practice the Sacrament.

1 Corinthians 11:27-34 (New Living Translation)

²⁷ So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against^[a] the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup. ²⁹ For if you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ,^[b] you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.

³¹ But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way. ³² Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

³³ So, my dear brothers and sisters,^[c] when you gather for the Lord's Supper, wait for each other. ³⁴ If you are really hungry, eat at home so you won't bring judgment upon yourselves when you meet together. I'll give you instructions about the other matters after I arrive.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (New International Version)

¹⁶ When we bless the cup at the Lord's Table, aren't we sharing in the blood of Christ? And when

we break the bread, aren't we sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread, showing that we are one body.

Conclusion

- 1. By practicing relationship—Sharing our lives with those who are in our presence.**
- 2. By practicing one another living—accepting another for who they are and what they are not.**
- 3. By practicing bonding—Stretch to connect with those who may not be easy for you to love.**
- 4. By practicing the Sacrament—Invite someone to dinner in your home and share your heart.**