

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for February 20, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler | *Open Invitation: Family in Focus*

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Thank God today for the blessings of family, especially the ones you've personally experienced in your life.
- Are you holding family in proper focus relative to Christ and the cross?
- Ask God to help you adopt Jesus' view of the Church; that it is a globally-wide and eternally-deep family.
- Is your hearing and practicing of the word of God done more individually, or with others in community?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Genesis 4:1-12** | What does it mean today, within family relationships, for us to be each other's "keepers?"
- **Exodus 20:1-6** | Do you think people today can sometimes make an idol of family, giving it the highest reverence and worth? Why or why not?
- **Galatians 6:9-10** | How can you "do good" to someone in the "family of believers" this week?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

February Practice: Solitude & Silence | Day of Listening

(from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 106)

- The disciplines of silence and solitude are interwoven into the DNA of a Christian person. We rely on them like one relies on food or water. Perhaps this is why so many folks feel spiritually malnourished or dehydrated because they are not opening themselves up to silence and solitude. Solitude is not simply the absence of noise but the absence of distraction. Whenever we are able to sit and rest in the presence of God, our eyes are opened in ways that we wouldn't have imagined before.
- If you are really feeling that your life is overwhelmed with noise, try spending a day—or even several hours—without words (as much as you can). You will realize how much we rely on communication. If you want to take it a step further, keep your phone off for whatever duration of time you decide on and even avoid texting and social media. Do this not as a law, but as an experiment. Note your feelings of helplessness and excessive dependence upon how much you communicate. Enjoy and savor the day. Ask God to teach you during this time of rest. Learn what you can about God and yourself during this time.