

Pwrpt 1

STEADFAST

...UNTIL CHRIST IS FORMED IN YOU. – Gal.4:19b

God's loving formation of faithful followers

Heb.12:3-17

(BBC-05.12.20)

Text: Gal.4:19b- *...Until Christ is formed in you.*

- Paul- "...in anguish of childbirth until Christ be formed in you."

Pwrpt 2

Intro:

- Spiritual formation is a process- a lifelong process
- Reality- every Christian has flaws, short comings and inconsistencies. We all tend to put up a façade. We may not necessarily do it on purpose. We may be unaware of our flaws.
- e.g., of wall- when the glue is found faulty and it all comes tumbling down.
 - God knows what's behind the façade- he knows about our faulty glue- what we use to hold it all together.
 - He wants the deepest parts of us- our inner self- bound together with Christ- not by our own self-esteem and worldly coping mechanisms.
 - He knows our flaws and wants to repair them. The question is- will we let him and how will he do it?

Pwrpt 3

Read: Heb.12:3-6

What comes to your mind when you think of the word discipline

- Not necessarily a spanking for doing something wrong
- Mostly it should be about forming a godly and wholesome character- it may have nothing to do with sin or wrongdoing, or any flaw- e.g., Hebrews 5:8 says "[Jesus] learned obedience through what he suffered." – the greater suffering you experience the greater your test of obedience. JESUS ENDURED THIS TEST TO THE POINT OF SHEDDING HIS BLOOD.
- Discipline from God = Discipleship

We like to take short cuts to escape pain... God will get you to resit the exam- he won't allow you to perpetually avoid facing your problems

Pwrpt 4

Read: Heb.12:7-11

Why does God discipline us?

1. Because he loves us and wants the best for us – even more so than our parents did.
2. Because he has a desired outcome for our lives
3. At the time "all discipline is painful rather than pleasant..." It has been said that the two great motivators are pleasure and pain- God wants to transform us to the image of his son- this requires change- change can be painful. BUT IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOU NEED TO SUBMIT TO THE LORD'S DISCIPLINE.

Pwrpt 5

How does He discipline us?

1. Through suffering

- e.g., Jesus in Heb.5:8- "[Jesus] learned obedience through what he suffered."
- James 1:2-4-² *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

Pwrpt 6

2. Through fellow believers.

- Col.3:16- ¹⁶ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*
 - 'Nouthetew' means 'admonishing' in Greek – Christian counselor, Jay Adams, uses the word *nouthetic* to describe these admonishing conversations.
- Col.1:28- ²⁸ *Him [Christ] we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.*
 - 'admonishing'- Sunday Kidz pres.- Samuel- 1 Sam.3:13- ¹³ *And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain [LXX discipline] them.*

Jay Adams- In the LXX the word 'restrain' is translated 'discipline'.
"Eli's sin was failure to confront his sons nouthetically. He failed to

Speak soon enough, strictly enough, and seriously enough to effect genuine changes in them."

- **Christians aren't good at this, because it's not 'nice' to admonish. As in Eli's case- we are especially bad at doing it with those we love.**

Pwrpt 7

3. Through the church.

- Mt.18:15-17- ¹⁵ *"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.*
 - V15- one-on-one
 - V16- with others as witnesses
 - V17- within membership

Pwrpt 8

What is the outcome God hopes to achieve?

- "that we may share in His holiness" (v10), and yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness (v11).- that Christ, our righteousness, may be formed in us.

Pwrpt 9

Therefore

Read: Heb.12:12-17

Pwrpt 10

Response:

Heb.12:9- ⁹ *Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, **shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?***

The song, 'Jesus take me as I am' has the line, 'make me like a precious stone' ... e.g., the gentleman I knew called 'Len' was a gem collector who both cut and polished his own stones. He always said that he couldn't sing this particular line ('make me like a precious stone') because he knew the intense process that this took.

Will you open yourself to God's discipline in your life?