

Essentials Orientation

CHECK IN PLEASE

1. Everyone check in on the app - this will give us emails and attendance
2. I will give everyone some longer passages that you can take and read on your own at the end of each night. They will be longer passages than we are looking at and will give you additional content.
3. If you are in a CG I am suggesting those longer passages I just mentioned be unpacked in group. Based on what you learn here each week, CG leaders can use those to go deeper.
3. I will email out next week's passages in advance if you want to read ahead. Every once in a while I will suggest an article to read (think essay, not magazine). That will go out by email as well.

OPENING STORY - LAUREN DAIGLE

I assume you have heard of Lauren Daigle, but here is a paragraph from Wikipedia:

Lauren Daigle is a 28 year old Christian singer and songwriter. She released her debut album, How Can It Be, in 2015. It reached No. 1 on the Billboard Top Christian Albums chart, has been certified Platinum (meaning 500,000 albums or 1,000,000 singles sold). Her single "You Say" has broken the record for number of weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Christian Songs Chart - 35 weeks. [Wikipedia]

AMERICAN IDOL

By the way, she was told no by American Idol at age 17 - only to come back on as a mentor 10 years later.

QUESTION

Why do I bring up Lauren Daigle?

answer

Lauren Daigle - after being raised in a Christian home and church - her rising musical fame got her in some **serious internet criticism.**

SANG ON ELLEN - You Say

INTERVIEW BY A GUY - SUPPOSEDLY A CHRISTIAN

Question: do you think homosexuality is a sin?

Answer: "You know, I can't honestly answer that. I have too many people that I love that they are homosexual ... um ... I don't know. I just had a conversation about with someone last night about it. I can't say one way or another about it."

QUESTION

Who's fault is it that after being raised in a Christian home and church that Lauren Daigle has no answer for one of the most common questions asked of Christianity and culture today?

ANSWER

I think that since Lauren Daigle is 28 years old, there is some responsibility on her as an adult, but for sure I blame both her parents and her church for not giving her a foundation.

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NOTE

I think most Christians in America don't answer this question very well - meaning both biblically and missionally - so there is a need in the church to equip ourselves with biblical answers that can be used in any setting.

OUR JOB IN ESSENTIALS

It is not our goal to answer what lifestyles are sin or not, but rather to focus on what God's Word teaches us about Jesus, and responding to Jesus with our whole life, which will indeed answer some of those questions.

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Goals for the Essentials Series

OVERALL GOAL

Our overall goal will be to develop an individual statement of faith (for each person) that covers a biblical understanding of the proclaimed gospel and apostles teaching in the early church. In other words, what did the apostles, as instructed by Jesus, pass on the churches they pastored? And, how do we live that out today?

4 PERIODS OF HISTORY

We will spend time in three areas of time:

1. The 1st Century Church led by the very students of Jesus

We will read passages of Scripture about the apostles passing on the gospel of Jesus, and the teaching of the church

2. The next 300 years of the Church: how it passed on apostolic teaching once the apostles died - and fought against heresies and false teachings.

We will look at passages of Scripture that were used to form creeds and confessions in the early church and how they protected the message they were taught.

3. The Reformation of the Church as it reclaimed what was lost

The following 1000 years saw a ton of division and a low point for the Christian Church. How did the Protestant Reformation [500 years ago] reclaim what was lost, and focus again on the sound teaching of the apostles?

4. Today: what do we do with all this in the church today? Discipleship.

What should we know? What should we teach in the church? What should we pass on to others (parents to children, mentors to disciples, etc.)

Lesson 1 “Traditions and Delivering Traditions”

GOAL

Our goal tonight is New Testament proof of an established teaching in the church, and Paul’s expectation that everyone would adhere to it.

2 Timothy 2:1-2

1 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

- Paul sees Timothy as his child in the faith - his responsibility to train
- Paul tells Timothy to pay attention to what Paul taught him - **1st Generation**
- Timothy is to find faithful men to entrust that teaching to - **2nd Generation**
- The faithful men are to pass it on to others - **3rd Generation**
- The “others” are to continue this - **4th Generation**

QUESTION

Who proclaims the gospel to Paul? - Jesus

Who teaches Paul to live in the teachings of Jesus? - Damascus disciples

NOW

What does Paul do?

Answer

He passes it on to Timothy and a gazillion other people.

Group Study - Worksheets and Slides

RESTATE GOAL

Our goal tonight is New Testament proof of an established teaching in the church, and Paul's expectation that everyone would adhere to it.

FOCUS FOR THE PASSAGES BELOW

Paul taught a body of truth to the church, as taught to him by Jesus and other disciples. In his early letters he called this patterns, traditions, instructions, and commandments. Later moving to “sound doctrine”. Focus on how Paul understood these truths, how he passed them on, and what he believed about everyone adhering to them (being normative).

TRADITION (PARADOSIS)

2 Thessalonians 2:15

2 Thessalonians 3:6

1 Corinthians 11:2 (note this verse for the next section)

OTHER TRADITIONS

Matthew 15:2–3

Mark 7:8-9

Galatians 1:14

Colossians 2:8

DELIVERED (PARADIDOMAI)

1 Corinthians 11:2 (note from above passage)

1 Corinthians 11:23-24

1 Corinthians 15:3

Acts 16:4

SOUND DOCTRINE

1 Timothy 6:1-3 (also includes “the teaching” vs. 1, and other words)

2 Timothy 1:13–14

Titus 2:1

QUESTIONS

1. How did Paul view the traditions, patterns, and sound doctrine, he was delivering to the churches? How important was it to Paul? To what degree did he expect it to be followed?

2. What did Paul understand was the source of these instructions (doctrine) for the churches? Did Paul recognize other traditions that were not right, and what was the difference?

3. Can Paul's traditions (instructions, commandments, patterns, and sound doctrines) be systematized for the church today? For all centuries?

4. How does the average church today view these instructions, commandments, teachings, traditions, and doctrines? What might be some of the reasons that people minimize them in our churches today?

HOMEWORK - READ AND SEE A VARIETY OF WORDS

1 Timothy 4:1-16

1 Timothy 6:1-10