

Total Identify In Christ

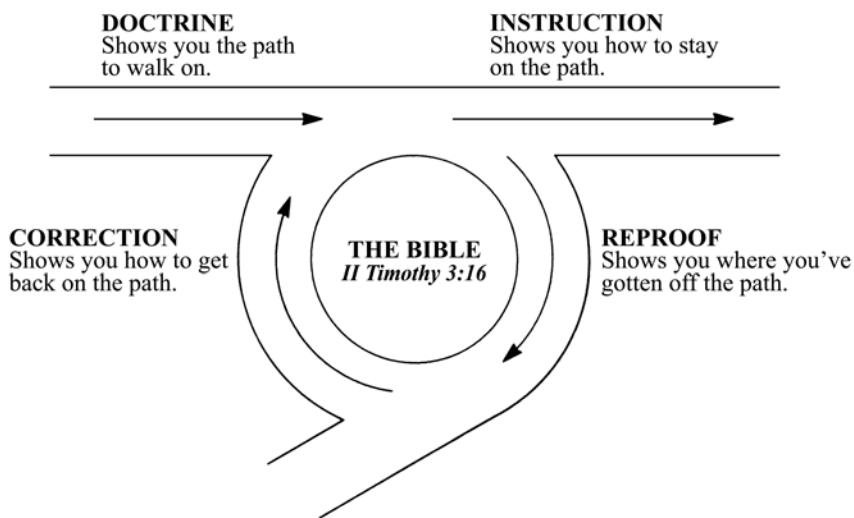
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Introduction: We spoke earlier of Christ the Word and reality of life. We spoke of Christ as the light of the world. Last night we spoke of eternal life. Today we want to pull things together on how to grow in Christ.

I. Three things are important.

A. The word of God is crucial. (John 8:31)

1. The word is the foundation of our life. (John 6:63)
2. Every word of God is inspired and profitable. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



- a. Instruction in truth.
- b. The world is looking for truth.
- c. Truth causes us to realize what is important.
- d. A plane needs guidance to fly and to land.
- e. We need guidance for godly living.
- f. Pilots need to be narrow minded in following directions.
- g. We need to be narrow minded in heeding God's direction.
- h. Satan tries to get us to ignore the word of God.

- i. We only grow as we get into the word of God.
- j. In military school I was drilled hard by instructors.
- k. I thought no Christians were in this school so I decided to go underground.
- l. A Christian challenged me to study the Bible with him.
- m. He taught me to have a quiet time.
- n. I memorized my first verse. (John 1:12)
- o. I have never stopped memorizing the word.
- p. We never know enough to stop studying the word.

B. Obedience is important. (John 14:21)

- 1. Take heed to what we hear. (Mark 4:24)
- 2. We need to obey. (James 1:12)
- 3. We need to obey spiritual leaders. (Hebrews 13:17)
- 4. Only be strong and careful to obey God. (Joshua 1:7-8)
- 5. We succeed as we obey God and fail as we disobey, as King Saul did. (1 Samuel 15:1-24)
- 6. Saul was rejected by God for his disobedience.
- 7. Saul feared to obey God completely.
- 8. We need to obey God all the way.

C. Our identity with Jesus is important. (Luke 14:26-27)

- 1. We cannot be disciples of Christ if we do not renounce all.
- 2. Paul counted all as loss to gain Christ. (Philippians 3:7-11)
- 3. Christ had no place to lay his head.
- 4. We need to identify with Christ's life.

5. We know Christ as we leave the world behind. (Philippians 3:10)
6. Simon of Cyrene carried Christ's cross. He was a representative of his island to go to Passover.
 - a. He got caught up in the festivities of the celebration. He was surprised, however, by the commotion about Jesus.
 - b. The way of the cross must have shocked him.
 - c. Why would the King of the Jews be crucified this way?
 - d. Suddenly Simon was called on to carry the cross for Jesus. He must have felt guilty by association with Jesus.
 - e. He must have been impacted by Christ's gaze on him.
 - f. Fifty days later he might have heard the preaching of Peter on the day of Pentecost.
 - i. Peter told the truth about Jesus.
 - ii. Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Savior of the world.
 - iii. Christ was crucified but has been raised from the dead.
 - iv. By faith in him we can have eternal life.
 - v. Simon might have wondered why one of his disciples didn't carry Jesus' cross. When he returned to Cyrene he had a story to tell.
8. Believers are the Simons of today.
 - a. God needs men and women to identify with Jesus' cross.
 - b. We each need to take up our crosses and follow Jesus.
9. Are you ready to be identified with Christ?
 - a. Let people know that you are living for Christ.
 - b. Take Christ at his word.
 - c. Stop being a fringe Christian but live in the center of God's will.