



Life on Life – Learning and Growing – Sunday July 29th, 2018
The following notes are from the sermon Pastor Wayne Flowers gave on July 29th, 2018 Smythe Street Cathedral.

Part two of: Life on Life. **Today:** Learning and Growing

Let's do a 5 minute review....

What is Relational Mentoring?

One life shaping another life through a discipling relationship established on truth, trust, grace and authenticity.

Why do we need this now?

1. It is God's way of changing the world.

- Maturing believers and raising up leaders does not happen by remote.
- **Elisha** was the protégé of **Elijah**.
- **Jesus** started with 12 men into whom he poured his life.
- **Paul** shaped the life of **Timothy**.

2. It is and has been our experience.

This is the way we have grown. The investment of others into our lives!

3. It is what God is stirring in our hearts.

The **Road Ahead**....over and over...we need a clear path of discipleship.

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. 2nd Tim. 2:2

I issue a strong warning to our church family...

Failing to invest in the generation coming behind us would be catastrophic for the church!!

Will God be pleased...

Will the next generation be strong in the faith...

...if we slip away without investing in the lives of others?

That is why...

...if God is speaking to your heart...

...if there are invitations or opportunities to connect...

...if you are asked to have input in someone's life...

...**seize the day!!**

The good news is...it is happening. The will the desire the initiative is present!

What does healthy discipling environment look like?

Can I portray what this looks like, feels like, how it affects us, what is so amazing about it?

1. Purpose.

The goal is the maturing of our life and faith.

It is to become like Jesus.

It is evident in the following verses:

I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you. Gal. 4: 19

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. Col. 1: 28-29

Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matt. 28:19

2. Trust.

Growth and discipleship happens in the context of a relationship of trust.

We cannot be discipled and grow into maturity unless we humbly submit to the influence and the guidance and the example of someone we trust.

People only receive the truth they trust.

- We give permission for them to speak into our lives.
- We become vulnerable.
- Now real growth is happening!!

Mentors embody trust.

They are reliable and honest!

You can allow yourself to come under that person's influence.

The advice of George Shalm...

Choose wisely the people to whom you seek guidance and mentorship.

I am going to trust you with me!!

We experience the influence of other people in our lives through mutual submission.

- I will have your back. - I will be there. - I will care for you.
- I will listen and without judgement.
- I will **tell you the truth!!** Even when it hurts!

3. Grace.

The ability to see the person we can become!

Someone who is able to look past our weakness and faults and see who we can become.
Did not Jesus embody this kind of grace?

Undeserved and unearned favour and blessing.
This calls us higher!

Illustration of the turtle:

Poke and prod and they retreat. Safety and gentleness and they come out.
Relationships of trust establish the environment of grace that best makes disciples.
People will come out of their shells only when they feel loved and accepted.

When we offer people a place where they feel safe, affirmed, and more able to risk, they'll be more open to change.

I would describe this as...

Kind, affirming, accepting, non-judgemental, loving.
This is not sloppy or weak!!

The people who love you and whom you trust have incredible power and influence over you.

We cannot talk about grace without talking about Humility and Submission.

They know their own limitations and weaknesses.
They will lead from weaknesses and vulnerabilities.

Without humility, there's no submission.
Without submission, relationships of trust can't exist.
Without relationships of trust, we won't make ourselves vulnerable.
Without vulnerability, no one can influence us.
Without influence, we won't change.

In an atmosphere of grace we...

- lower our defences. - are willing to take risks.

Remember, the goal is maturity and growth.
This happens where there is grace and truth. (Just like Jesus!!)

Conclusion... Will you do life on life?**Pray! Seek!**

I am making a direct appeal. I am asking something of this church family.
Are you feeling the need to mentor and disciple others? Will you walk with them?
Will you be willing to commit to a time slot in your weekly calendar to mentor others?

We cannot grow unless we grow people in the context of truth-filled, trusting relationships.

We cannot grow people unless the vision fills your hearts and motivates you to action.
Let us know!!