



Gospel Community Notes & Questions

Title: Formed: Apprentices of Jesus

Text: Galatians 2:20

Theme: Apprentices to Jesus

Teaching Notes: Everyone is being formed; the question is by whom or what. Scripture calls followers of Jesus to be intentionally formed as His apprentices, living from union with Him, as the Spirit transforms us into Christ's image over time through ordinary, faithful rhythms of grace.

Outline:

1. Formation as Apprenticeship to Jesus

- Everyone is being formed by loves, habits, stories, and practices; the question is by whom.
- Following Jesus in our practices and daily patterns shapes who we are; the portal into this life is repentance and faith in Him.
- Apprenticeship transforms us as we abide in Him, learn His rhythms, and grow into His image.

2. The Power of the Spiritual Life: Union with Christ

- The power to live as Jesus' apprentices flows from union with Him by faith.
- Growth is Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered, not self-powered, as the Spirit shapes us into His image.

3. The Pattern of the Spiritual Life: Death & Resurrection

- Spiritual formation follows the rhythm of daily dying to self and rising in Christ.
- God's transforming work by the Spirit shapes us into Christ's image over time.

4. The Means of the Spiritual Life: Rhythms of Grace

- We are shaped by practices, habits, and routines, whether intentional or not.
- A Rule of Life helps align our days and all of life to focus on Jesus.
- Rhythms of grace invite us to abide in Christ and experience His transforming presence.

5. The Motivation of the Spiritual Life: The Love of Christ

- The gospel fuels our identity, obedience, hope, and transformation, and all spiritual formation flows from grace, not guilt.



Questions to Explore Individually and With Your Group

1. How does Galatians 2:20 guide you as you follow Jesus as His apprentice?
2. What practices, habits, or rhythms have been most helpful in shaping your heart toward Jesus? How have they helped you grow as His apprentice?
3. What would it look like for you to receive spiritual practices not as pressure, but as invitations to abide in Jesus? How could you implement this in your daily life?
4. How does knowing that God uses ordinary, everyday consistency over time to form you into the image of Jesus give you hope or perspective in your apprenticeship?
5. When you slow down and look honestly at your life, what do you sense is shaping you most right now? Who or what is forming you?
6. Think about your daily rhythms (morning, commute, meals, evening, free time). When do you feel most alive spiritually? When do you feel most distracted or depleted? How could you turn these rhythms toward Jesus?
7. Where do you most often feel tired, anxious, or stuck in your walk with Jesus? How might that reveal areas where you're "paddling from the shore" instead of living from union with Christ?
8. The Christian life follows the rhythm of daily death and resurrection. What is one desire, habit, or pattern God may be inviting you to lay down right now? What is one life-giving habit you can put in its place?
9. How does knowing that Jesus "loved you and gave Himself for you" speak into your discouragement, shame, or weariness? How might this gospel truth fuel your obedience, hope, and growth?

Practice This Week:

- Reflect on your daily rhythms (morning, commute, meals, evening, free time, etc.) and ask: What formed me today? What did I behold? What did I love?
- How can I intentionally turn to Jesus and follow Him as an apprentice through a practice that shapes my heart toward Him?

Prayer:

Father, we confess that we are often shaped more by the rhythms of the world than by the life of Christ. Form us as Your apprentices, shaping our loves, habits, stories, and practices, so that following Jesus in every part of life transforms who we are. Teach us to walk the pattern of daily dying to self and rising in Christ, and to live in the rhythms of grace that invite us to abide in Him and experience His transforming presence, in Jesus' name, Amen.