



September 17, 2023

Kevin Sneed

Romans 12:1-2

John 15:1-8

1. Read Matthew 28:18-20. What do Jesus' words reveal about the call to discipleship? How might this be a needed reminder for the Church as we consider our tendency to elevate theology without right living?
2. Discuss the following definition of a rule of life by Andy Crouch: *a set of practices to guard our habits and guide our lives*. How might a rule of life be a helpful tool for you in your apprenticeship to Jesus? Are there particular practices that you have already intentionally incorporated into your rule of life?
3. Kevin, in reminding us of the call to live into the city of God amidst the city of man, said that "our call is to contradict the time that we live in." How and why is the renewing of our minds essential to living out this call? How might this require much of us?
4. Revisit 2 Corinthians 3:18 and Psalm 16:5-8. What do these verses reveal to us about the connection between our mind (our directed attention, volition, or will) and our transformation? Why is this good, and encouraging, news for us?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. One of the primary strategies of the enemy is deception; he, in subtle ways, twists the truth and plays off of our disordered loves. Do you have any examples of a time when you may have been facing deception and the Holy Spirit brought to remembrance a

truth that you had previously learned/memorized (or used someone else to point you back to the truth of God's Word)?

6. A.W. Tozer writes: *"What comes to mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us."* What comes to mind when you think about God? How has this shaped the way you live, and the way you respond to Him?
7. Read John 15:1-8. What stands out to you, and particularly encourages you, from this passage? What is our role in these verses? What is Jesus' role?
8. Kevin used the metaphor of tending to a garden to describe what it looks like to curate and fill our minds. We must keep the toxins away, pull up the weeds, and fill the soil with nutrients. Take 2-3 minutes now as a group for silent reflection, individually with the Lord. Process the following questions with Him:

What are some of the things that are filling your thought life? Are these things shaping you in the way of Jesus, and allowing you to abide in the Vine?

Are there any thoughts that you might need to take captive and align with the truth of Jesus?

If you are comfortable, after the time of silence, share with the group what the Holy Spirit may have brought to mind during this time.

9. Kevin said *"We can't just 'not think' - we have to replace our thoughts that are negative and plant something more beautiful in its place."* In other words, we name the lie and replace that with what is good. This is the beginning of what it means to abide in the Vine. What are some ways that you might intentionally fill your mind with scripture?