



PATHFINDERS

Leading this generation into true manhood!!

Pathfinders are in Pursuit!

1 Timothy 6:11

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on September 17, 2022



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Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **PATHFINDERS: Leading this generation into true manhood!**
- While I have not had a great start, I am very excited about the Agabus Co-op
- For the last several months we have been learning how to grow things with hydroponics
- We have learned that you can't just throw seeds into a medium and then go out the next morning and harvest a crop
- There are several things that need to be attended to along the way
- On the left side of the handout, you will see a hexagon with the word 'Harvest' in the center
- Around the edges of the hexagon are six things that need to be attended to: seeds, germination, water, nutrients, sunlight, and pests
- Each one has details that need to be addressed
- For example: the water
- Regular tap water has chemicals that are not conducive to hydroponics – it must be allowed to sit for 24 hours to off gas those chemicals
- Then it also must be PH balanced
- What happens if you omit or ignore one of those six factors
- What if you do five perfectly, but don't put the plants where they get the right amount of light? No harvest or poor harvest!
- Turn in your Bible to **1 Timothy 6**
- God is looking for a harvest from our lives **Romans 8:29**
For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.
- On the left side of the handout is another hexagon with the word 'Christlikeness'
- That is the harvest God is looking for from your life
- It also happens to be the best life you can live
- It is God's will that we live fruitful lives **Colossians 1:9-10**

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...

- But just like I can't just throw seeds into a container and then hope for a harvest, I must tend my Christlikeness for the greatest harvest

- This is a call to diligence **Proverbs 20:4**

The lazy man will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing.

- Around the edge of our hexagon are six things that are pulled from our text for this morning

- Let's read that and then we will break it down into its components

- **1 Timothy 6:11**

- We often focus on the things we should flee or stay away from

- This morning I want to focus on the things Paul tells Timothy, and us to pursue - righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness

- The word 'pursue' is in the present tense, active voice, imperative form – that means it is a command to be actively doing these things now and to keep doing them

- Let's start with the first one – **Pursue Righteousness!**

- Righteousness is the state of being right with God – in a right standing

- This is something that we attain by faith **2 Corinthians 5:21**

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- By faith in Christ all our sins are forgiven, and we attain a right standing with God

- What we attain by faith we also maintain by faith

- We pursue righteousness through confession and repentance **1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Examine your life for any unrighteousness and repent

- Pursuing righteousness leads us toward a harvest of Christlikeness

- Second – **Pursue Godliness!**

- Godliness is being like God **Genesis 1:27**

So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- We were created to reflect the nature, character, and attributes of God
- We are not God and so our reflection is a dim reflection
- Godliness is about how much people can see God in your life
- This is not about acting godly – that might be hypocrisy
- It is about being godly – examine what the world can see about your life – does it reflect the nature, attributes, and character of God?
- Third – **Pursue Faith**
- Faith is what we know and believe about God and His Word
- Pursuing faith means seeking to grow in your knowledge of God and His will through His Word
- We do that by praying, reading, studying, and sitting under the instruction of Bible teachers
- But it also includes obedience to God **James 2:18**
But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.
- Faith is only real if it is visible for the world to see
- Fourth – **Pursue Love**
- Turn to **1 Corinthians 13**
- Love has to with how we interact with others
- While there is a component of feelings in love, it is the expression of love that manifests Christlikeness
- **1 Corinthians 13:1-7**
- To pursue love means viewing everyone we come into contact with as someone that God wants to love through us
- It means we ask God how He wants us to express His love to them
- We can do that because God loves us **1 John 4:19**
We love Him because He first loved us.
- We can also do it because the love doesn't come from us **Romans 5:5**
Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- As we pursue to love everyone God loves, it is His Spirit dwelling in us loving them with the love God poured into us
- If you have God's love in you then it is possible for you to love anyone God loves

- If we can't love someone it is because there is something else in us blocking God's love
 - That might be pride, unforgiveness, resentment, fear, or a lack of faith
 - God loved us when we didn't deserve His love **Romans 5:8**
- But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**
- Pursuing love means seeking to be God's conduit of love to the graceless and undeserving around us
 - Fifth – **Pursue Patience**
 - Turn to **Romans 3**
 - Patience is putting up with things that are inconvenient, unnecessary, uncomfortable, or unimportant
 - A glimpse of God's patience, or forbearance, is described here
 - **Romans 3:21-26**
 - God was patient with us because that was what we needed Him to be so that we could be justified by faith in Christ
 - We are pursuing patience when we stop viewing interactions with other people through the lens of what we want or need and start seeking to see them by what they need from us
 - If during an interaction with someone you are bothered, or frustrated, or angry – you are not being patient
 - And you don't get bonus points if they can't tell that you are bothered
 - Any time you start to feel bothered during an interaction, ask God to show you what they need you to be during the interaction
 - Everything Christ did while He was on this earth was for others
 - He knew His Father in heaven would take care of Him
 - Christlikeness is trusting God with every moment of our life
 - If some of those moments seem to be inconvenient, unnecessary, uncomfortable, or unimportant – trust God with them and be patient
 - Sixth – **Pursue Gentleness**
 - Gentleness is not about being soft and tender – don't be a pansy
 - Jesus is our example – the Samaritan woman at the well
 - She didn't worship God rightly
 - She had been married five times and was shackled up with a guy she wasn't married to

- And yet, Jesus treats her with tenderness
- The woman caught in the act of adultery – He didn't condemn her

John 8:10-11

When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"
¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

- But then with Peter, after he suggested that Jesus shouldn't go to the cross **Matthew 16:23**

But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

- And to the hypocritical religious leaders **Matthew 23:27-28**

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men's* bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

- Gentleness is about treating people so as not to break them
- With my grandson, I relate to him with wrestling and Nerf gunfights
- With Aurora, it is cuddling and crayons
- To pursue gentleness means getting to know the people we are interacting with
- We can't treat everyone like the Samaritan woman at the well and we can't treat them all like the hard-hearted religious leaders
- To pursue gentleness, we must know who we are interacting with
- If they are strangers, default to a softer touch
- Our goal is a greater harvest of Christlikeness in our lives
- If you go back to the image on the left side of the handout
- If you omit or ignore one of more of the things in the hexagon, the less likely you are to get a harvest
- The same is true on the right side of the handout
- If my garden is well tended than I am going to be blessed with a harvest
- If my Christlikeness is well tended, God will bless me abundantly
- And just as I can't sit passively and hope for an abundant harvest in the garden, I must pursue that harvest by tending the garden
- Christlikeness is not something that is achieved passively, we must tend the garden of our heart **Proverbs 4:23**

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life.

- Pathfinders are actively pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness
- And they are doing it in community with other Pathfinders
- They are doing it for the sake of those God called them to lead
- They are doing it for God's glory, the blessing of others, and for the growing of faith – theirs and others
- Pathfinders are pursuers
- **Let's pray!**