

Faithful Disciples

The background of the slide is a photograph of a person's legs and feet walking on a sandy, textured ground. The person is wearing dark shorts and white socks. The feet are positioned in the upper center of the frame, with one foot slightly ahead of the other. The sand is a warm, golden-brown color with some darker, shadowed areas. The overall lighting is soft, creating a contemplative mood.

By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. - 1 John 2

When 2nd Is Not Ok

Some important foundations

- Seeing clearly God's action and intention
- Responding to that initiating work
- Last Week – Gospel
 - God is for us – not about us

Isaiah 46:8 "Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me"

declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it."

- redeeming what is His
- defeating sin, effects, enemies
- restoring and renewing His creation

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When 2nd is Not Ok

- called to respond

Romans 10:9-11 *“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’ ”*

- believing and accepting
- walking as disciples
- witness to the world

Faithful Disciples

When 2nd is Not Ok

1. God Makes it Clear

Exodus 20:1-7 And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."

a) as recipients of My love and action....

- brought you out of slavery
- fulfilling my promise (covenant)
- See Gen. 17:1-10, verses 1-8, God promises to do, verses 9-10 expectation to respond

b) Shall have no other Gods before me

- cannot add me to your belief system
- first and only in your hearts and lives
- see it clearly again in covenant renewal in Exodus 34:10-16

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- 34:6-7 *The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."*

- don't miss – by no means clear the guilty

c) Worship and Serve Me

- not images that represent my creation
- not serving things made or seen
- love, affection and delight belong to me

d) I am a Jealous God

- see you as my bride, belonging to me
- Ezekiel 16:38 *“And I will judge you as women who commit adultery and shed blood are judged, and bring upon you the blood of wrath and jealousy.”*

- legacy issue here, promise to the faithful

e) My Name Matters

- never to be taken in vain

2. Clear in the New Testament

a) greatest commandment – Matthew 22:34-40

“But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him,

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

- all your heart – desires and pursuits
- all your soul – worship and longing for
- all your strength – time and intention

b) included your earthly relationships

Matthew 10:37-39 *“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”*

- don't miss the importance of these relationships (honor family), just don't miss the order of the heart!

c) includes your actions and stuff

Mark 10 – rich young ruler

“And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” ²¹ And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

- earthly things cannot come before Christ

d) Worshiping the creator not creation

Romans 1:20-22 *“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.”*

e) actions and obedience matter

John 14:15,21,23-24

15 *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”*

21 *“Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”*

23-24 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me."

- clear that God's place in our lives is 1st
- He is not ok with 2nd place
- God is most certainly not your co-pilot

3. Faith as a Key in this

a) Faith is.... Hebrews 1:1-3

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”

- assurance
- conviction

b) without faith.... Hebrews 11:6

“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

- God calls us to response that requires faith
- important truth

So What

1. God initiates and invites
 - sets the terms (for you not about you)
 - slow to anger, gracious, forgiving – setting right
 - invited into spirit empowered living
 - involves heart, worship and actions
2. God Never willing to settle for second
 - we can enjoy creation, things, people – good
 - important – love and serve nothing before him

- He has revealed himself and his plan
- He is jealous and redeeming what is his
- your response to this matters

3. Steps of Faith in this Matter

- start with asking Him to reveal
- examine life and heart
- prepare to listen and respond