

Talk It Over

Practice!
(Week 3)
Guide Biblically

SMALL TALK

1. Do you read or study the Bible on your own? When did you first read it on your own? How did that go? What led you to read or study it for yourself?

VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Romans 15:14.** What three things was Paul convinced about these believers?
3. **READ Colossians 3:1-17.** In this large section of teaching, list out the actions that produce the 3 things from question 2 in Romans 15:14.

1.

2.

3.

GETTING PERSONAL

4. Why won't being filled with knowledge work by itself?
5. From the three things in Romans 15:14: 1) Filled with goodness, 2) Filled with knowledge, and 3) competent to instruct one another, which area do you need to work on most this week? Did the section in Colossians give you any specific ideas for practical steps?
6. Is there anyone in your life who needs to hear your words of instruction?

MAKING PROGRESS

7. Do you see how these 5 practices work together? Can you give an example of someone thinking they are **guiding biblically**, but it comes off all wrong? What caused it to be "off" and unlike Jesus? What causes it to be on the mark and helpful?

November 15, 2020

PRACTICE!

Life Practice 3: Guide Biblically:

Practice these 5 life practices that fuel a thriving and contagious faith in Jesus:

1. Devote Daily
2. Pursue Relationally
3. Guide Biblically
4. Live Authentically
5. Engage Missionally.

In recent years the research shows that people are deeply struggling and are seeking professional help like never before in the history of the world. The number of professionals in the professional fields of clinical psychologists, social workers, mental health workers, family therapists, etc... has increased more than 100x since the 1950s. Over the next few years, where other basic needed occupations are predicted to grow at a rate of around 7 percent, these areas are predicted to grow at a rate of 20%.

Why is that? Before I give you that answer, we need to understand something. The professionals are not mostly spending all of their time with the mentally ill person. Most of these professionals are spending the bulk of their time helping people with everyday life problems. A revolution has taken place right under our noses in modern life. Americans now pay for professionals to listen to their everyday life problems which used to be solved by family and friends.

There is a basic break down in the way we relate to people now and people are falling apart. Things really went south starting 2007 when the iphone was introduced, along with Facebook, and many other social media companies.

Apparently the answer isn't a smart phone or the internet or our growing following of digital friends.

Jesus is the answer. But more importantly, Jesus in you is the answer for others. So, here we go! We can make a significant and beautiful difference for the overall health of our community!

Today perhaps you noticed there is an opportunity to make friends and be a friend called "Come to the Table".

- If you sign up you are signing up for a one-time gathering. 2 hours, 6 women, and 4 discussion questions. It's intended to help people (just women, at this time) to connect with one another at a time when connections are difficult to make and maintain.
- Their purpose statement: "Come to the Table to build intentional relationships centered around God and His Word. Come receive refreshment, spiritual encouragement, and prayer support."

Now we need a guys version. Men, anyone want to step to the plate and organize small breakfast gatherings or something, maybe tag team off of the Wednesday AM study or something? I can see it now: 4 guys, 1 hour, 1 question, 1 breakfast!

Friends! We can make a big difference for each other.

***Romans 15:1-7 (NIV)** We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³ For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." ⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the*

encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:13–14 (NIV) *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

¹⁴ I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

I. You are COMPETENT to guide Biblically

Romans 15:14 (NIV) *I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and **competent to instruct one another.***

Definition of “Instruct”:

This word is translated from a Greek verb *noutheteo*. *Noutheteo* is a compound word from 2 words, *nous* “mind” and *tithemi* “to put in place” and so it is translated “instruct”, “admonish”, “to warn”, “counsel”, or “guide” regarding behavior. This kind of “instruction” puts into mind, **setting something straight** where there tended to be **resistance**.

II. When you are full of GOODNESS

Romans 15:14 (NIV) *I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are **full of goodness**, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.*

Animal behavior is governed by instinct. But God has created human beings to be governed by instruction as opposed to instinct!

This instruction works well when we function according to our design, as body, soul, spirit in union with God's Spirit. However, Sin broke this design. And ever since, we have been resisting God's instruction, and our intellect is bent of following our own instruction, which leans toward self-centeredness that appeals to us in the short term but is foolish and self-destructive in the long term.

Fallen humanity is convinced we can teach ourselves to be good, or "learn" to be good. All we need to do is see the right counselor. This is sort of true, but the right counselor is Jesus. Isaiah calls him the Wonderful counselor in a prophecy about his birth (See Isaiah 9:6)

But God's word tells us that fallen humanity cannot be filled with what God calls the fruit of the Spirit, until our sin nature is dealt with effectively, and we become reunited with God's Spirit. Once that takes place. God's Spirit serves as "another counselor", the "counselor" Jesus gives, who helps us accept, understand, receive, and cooperate with God's instruction. But God does more than merely instructing us. We learn to work out, what God works in, and God in us to will and to act to fulfill his good purpose (Phil 2:13).

III. And when you are full of **KNOWLEDGE**

Romans 15:14 (NIV) I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

QUESTIONS:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do you want to make mistakes? (Of course not.) |
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- Do you want to give wise counsel when you encourage or guide people? (Who wouldn't?)
- What is the actual source of wisdom? (God Himself.)
- If you could think like God thinks, would you be wise? (Undoubtedly.)
- Where are many (not all) of God's thoughts? (In the Bible.)

2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV) All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

- When talking with a person about a problem, don't just give your opinions.
- First ask yourself, *Has God already spoken directly about this in His Word?*
- If so, what has He said?
- If not, is there a general biblical principle that needs to be considered?
- The deeper your dependence on the Word of God, the wiser you will be.

FAIR WARNING: Being full of BIBLE knowledge does not work by itself!

If you have not repented, and turned toward trusting the Lord Jesus you will not truly understand God's word.

God's word is living, and interpreted, and applied by the Holy Spirit of God, which is only given to those who are born again and live by faith in Jesus. If you know you are not abiding in Jesus, repent, unite with Jesus. If you have never done so, unite with him by faith. Then make that inward uniting outward by uniting with him by faith in his death, burial, and resurrection. He promises to raise you to a new life, by his resurrection power.

You also can be filled with GOODNESS, and FILLED with Knowledge, to help others turn to trusting in Jesus!

Romans 15:14 (NIV) I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

You can bring health and healing and hope to the Verde Valley. We can do this through our **small groups**. We can do this through our **friendships**. We can do this through our **families**. We can do this through our **mentoring relationships**. Let's do this.

Let's stop giving only our opinions, and become filled with goodness, filled with knowledge, and guide Biblically!