

Life on the Vine

Faithfulness

August 17, 2014

*“...the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.”*

(Psalm 100:5, TNIV)

Faithfulness is _____.

Obstacles to faithfulness:

1. Our culture's value of _____.
2. Our culture's propensity to _____.
3. Our culture encourages _____.

The Spirit grows faithfulness in me when...

1. ...I “_____ the _____ of _____.”
 - Matthew 28:20b
 - Romans 8:25-29
2. ...I _____ and _____.
3. ...I _____ the _____ in _____.
 - Ephesians 4:14-16
 - Colossians 3:16-17

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Reflect and Respond

- Read Psalm 25:8-10. How do these verses reinforce what we have learned during this series (i.e. the Spirit's role and our role in cultivating the fruit of the Spirit)? What does this passage have to say about God's faithfulness?

Read Psalm 89, pausing to reflect every time you see the word "Selah." At every pause think about what you just read and what it says about God's faithfulness.

- How has our culture's value of disposability impacted your life and how you view relationships? What about other areas of impermanence in our culture such as mobility (Consider the Americans move an average of 10 times in their life)? What effect do these things have on our ability to commit to each other?
- Make a list of all the people to whom you have made promises or commitments to in the last few months. Make another list of those people on whom you believe you could rely to be there for you regardless of the circumstances. Think about what your life would be like and who you would be if the people on your two lists were not involved in your life or you in theirs.
- Think about your relationships, past and present, that you believe were marked by faithfulness. To what extent are those relationships also marked by the willingness to tell each other the truth? Can you think of specific examples from your own life of the connection between faithfulness and truth-telling?
- What can I do today to get better at "practicing the presence of God?"

Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NLT)

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