

The Jesus Difference – Week 1 – 2-4-23 - Pastor Guy

1. What kinds of technology were available to you when you were growing up? How has that changed now and what difference has it made?
2. What are some things that you have seen change over the course of your life that have made a BIG difference in some way?

Ephesians 1:15-23 - ¹⁵ For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, ¹⁶ I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

3. The Apostle Paul is praying for the Christians in the city of Ephesus and by extension all Christians in these verses. What stands out to you the most from these verses?
4. What does it mean for God to give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation?
5. Have you experienced this Spirit in your life, and if so, how has it helped you to know God better?
6. What does it mean to have the eyes of your heart enlightened?
7. What are the riches of his glorious inheritance mentioned in verse 18?
8. How does it make you feel to know that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to us as followers of Jesus?
9. What difference has Jesus made in your life?

Ephesians 5:8 - For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

10. What does it mean to be children of the light?
11. When did you first realize that God loves you?
12. How did that impact you?

1 John 4:19 - We love because he first loved us.

13. When did you first love God and how did that impact you?
14. Jesus asks his followers to do a lot of things in the Bible. Some of the core things he asks of us we have summarized as the 4 G's – Why do you think we are asked to do these things?
 - Gather – Attend church regularly and join a group
 - Grow – Say Yes to Jesus – Believer's baptism, prayer, bible reading
 - Give – Serve other, be generous
 - Go – Love others, share Jesus
15. Which of these come most naturally for you? Which are the most difficult?
16. Why should we do these things (4 G's)?

John 14:15 - "If you love me, keep my commands.

17. Why do you think that Jesus said that the evidence of our love is our obedience?
18. How does regularly remembering how much Jesus loves us help us to love Him and others?

Matthew 22:36-40 - ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

19. Jesus summarizes everything he asks us to do as loving God and loving others. What are your thoughts about this?
20. How do you feel being commanded to love God and others?
21. Does it change anything knowing that God's commandments are for our good?
22. What difference does loving God by obeying His commands make in our lives?
23. What is God challenging you to do this week?