

Bay City Wesleyan Church
April 3, 2016

Sunday Morning 04-03-2106

The first sermon in our series called ADVANCING DELIBERATELY; A Proven Plan to Stop Drifting and Start Growing.

<http://bible.com/events/13891>

You picked a great day to be here. We're launching a new series today called Advancing Deliberately: A Proven Plan to Stop Drifting and Start Growing. We believe that growth in a person's spiritual life is not limited to a select group of highly motivated saints. In fact, we go so far as to declare that following Jesus does not need to be complicated and incomprehensible to people like us.

However, we also recognize that many of us act a little lost. We aren't sure which direction to head. We wonder what needs to happen in order to experience a vibrant spiritual life. A lot of people are drifting and hoping it all works out.

Where do we begin to grow as followers of Jesus? What's the foundation?

Mark 12:28-34 NLT

One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." The teacher of religious law replied, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other. And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law." Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

This world is filled with people who go to one extreme or the other regarding love. Some claim to love others so much that they ignore Jesus. Others claim to love Jesus but they can't stand the people his loves. But the ability to transform lives, families and the world functions only when followers of Jesus love God and others. That's love to the second power.

Sermon in a Sentence:

Love to the second power transforms lives, families and the world.

FIRST STEPS:

- You learn to experience God's love and to express your love to him in worship celebrations like this.
- You learn to experience and to express love to others in smaller groups like Sunday School Classes and ministry teams.

What do you think you should do to stop drifting and start growing as a follower of Jesus?
When will you start?