

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
May 7, 2017

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Sunday Morning 05-07-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"  
When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/214804>

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[Image]

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[http://d1o2alqw72z1h8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1483223017441\\_152x152.jpg](http://d1o2alqw72z1h8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1483223017441_152x152.jpg)

Our theme for 2017 is Jesus' invitation, "Follow me."

These two simple words will transform every person that accepts the challenge. I pray that in the next few months all of us in this church, as well as those who join us, will see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly.

All kinds of people, even the most intense introverts, want relationships that refresh and renew their souls. We tend to avoid the people who drain the life out of us. Don't we?

Unfortunately, we live in a broken world. We are broken people and broken people end up breaking other people.

Jesus came into our broken world to restore and renovate it. He focuses his restoration process on broken people like us. He starts as with a simple invitation. "Follow me."

While broken people end up breaking people, made new people join Jesus in making people new. We do it by learning to speak the native language of God's Kingdom Family.

Ephesians 4:29-32 NIV

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

<http://bible.com/111/eph.4.29-32.NIV>

Sermon in a Sentence:

Take the first step into relationships that refresh by speaking the native language of God's Family - grace and kindness.

Progress Questions

On a scale of 1 (how do you say that?) to 10 (fluently)

[1] How easily do you compliment others?

- [2] Have you release all who have hurt or offended you into God's hands?
- [3] How often do you encourage the hurting people around you?

Practice for More Progress

- [1] Take a genuine interest in the persons around you. "Be kind."
- [2] Ask Jesus to help you see others as he sees them and to help them as he would help them. "Be compassionate."
- [3] Take those who've hurt you to the foot of Jesus' cross and accept his death as payment in full for their offense. "Forgive."

[Plan]

Forgiveness Reading Plan

7 Days

<http://bible.com/r/Gu>