

Bay City Wesleyan Church
July 16, 2017

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Sunday Morning 07-16-2017

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

<http://bible.com/events/249795>

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[Image]

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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.

Mark 7:14-23 NIV

Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them." After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

<http://bible.com/111/mrk.7.14-23.NIV>

Did you notice what Jesus did? He said, "Don't worry about what you eat. Worry about what you think about." He challenged and changed their mindsets.

"How do we know which rules in the Bible still apply to us?"

1. Always start with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thinking.
2. The Bible is not flat. Ideas introduced in the Old Testament can be modified or reversed in the New Testament.
3. God designed the principles regarding our behavior to protect us and to provide for us.
4. Jesus' teachings usually took principles from the Old Testament much deeper.

5. Jesus declared that the entire Bible hinges on two commands. Love God with your entire being. Love others as you love yourself.

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection present LOVE as meeting the needs of others no matter what the cost and no matter how they respond.

So, when applying the Bible, take the personal over the mechanical. Take freedom over legalism and lawlessness. Take faith, trust, and loyalty over works. ALWAYS TAKE JESUS' LOVE OVER EVERYTHING ELSE.

6. "Let Jesus be the judge." (David L. Thompson) Focus on the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

7. Beware of a completely new application of a Bible text. You and I are not the first people to study the Bible.

8. Listen to stories from others who are practicing what the Bible teaches. 9. Think through the application question carefully and prayerfully.

Sermon in a Sentence:

Pray, study the Bible together, respect our spiritual parents, share our stories, and think prayerfully to know what applies.