

Next Step

Message 4: From the Congregation to the Committed Ted Cunningham

Question #1: What did Ted mean about moving from self-focused (narcissism) to other-centered? (connection). Harvard's 75-year study chose 268 sophomores from between 1939-1944 to study about what makes you happy. What makes people feel happy? **Connections!**

Question #2: How do we make the faith journey moving from self-focused to other-focused?
Through the person of Jesus Christ.

Question #3: Elaborate on how we experience Christ as our life? Example: The Christ who lives in me greets the Christ who lives in you.

Question #4: What do the Scriptures reveal as the Lord's evidence you have moved from self-focus to others-focused?

- a. All members of the family participate in submission to one another.
- b. You protect the unity of our church.
- c. You share the responsibility of our church.
- d. You serve through the ministries of our church.
- e. You commit yourself to Jesus and the members of our church.

Question #5: Respond to this statement: The Lord Jesus is Head and Body, distinct, but inseparable. As you are connected in relationships with brothers and sisters in the local Body, your local church, you are really connected to Jesus, the Head.

Question #6: How can we be a shield for Jesus, the Body? Remember the Secret Service metaphor:

Question #7: What are you sensing from the Lord as your next step?

- a. *Crowd - "I like this church"
- b. *Congregation - "I agree with this church"
- c. *Committed - "I serve my church"
- d. *Core - I'm moving into life-sharing connectedness within the Body of Christ.

See scripture passages and notes below to show support of points a-e and for answers to questions:

22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. Ephesians 5:22-30

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12

I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

...By acting in love toward other members

...By refusing to gossip

...By following the leaders

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Romans 14:19

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had. Romans 15:5

I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

...By praying for its growth

...By inviting the unchurched to attend

So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.

Romans 15:7 (LB)

I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

...By discovering my gifts and talents

...By being equipped to serve

...By developing a servant's heart

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Every member is a minister.

Every ministry is important.