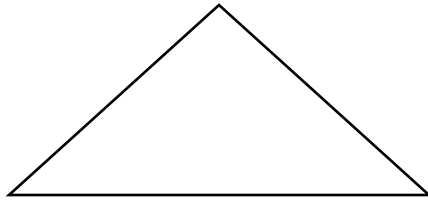


DISCIPLESHIP I – THE TRIANGLE OF TRANSFORMATION

Label the three sides of the triangle of transformation



TRIANGLE SIDE 2:

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- James 1:2-4

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

- 1 Peter 4:12

Love suffers long

- 1 Corinthians 13:4

Discuss this:

Our trials can lead us into joy, or into misery.

- What makes the difference?

Discuss this:

What is the definition of “Joy” discussed in the curriculum?

Discuss this:

What does it mean to *greet our trials with pure joy*?

Discuss this:

Do we feel grateful for the hard things in and of themselves?

Discuss this:

How does good-naturedly enduring difficulties for long periods of time strengthen our faith?

Why can our sanctification only be accomplished through our patient endurance of suffering?

Discuss this:

How is this “testing of our faith” for the world’s benefit, as well as our own?

Discuss this:

Thomas a Kempis said “Whosoever knows best how to suffer will keep the greatest peace. That man is conqueror of himself, and lord of the world, the friend of Christ, and heir of Heaven.”

Discuss this:

Do all things without complaining and disputing. Philippians 2:14.

FEELING/EMOTION

Discuss this:

“We are not just brains on a stick.”

Is emotion a good thing or a bad thing?

Discuss this:

What are the intended functions of emotion?

A. _____

B. _____

Discuss this:

How should we deal with destructive or harmful emotions?

Discuss this:

What are some examples of deeply problematic, longstanding types of dysregulated emotions?

Discuss this:

How are deeply problematic, longstanding types of dysregulated emotions to be dealt with?

A. _____

B. _____

Discuss this:

How does the will use the mind to speak to the emotions?

1 Corinthians 16:13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong

“We can use our mind to help control our feelings. But we cannot use our feelings to help control our mind.”

Discuss this:

Why is bringing our whole selves under the lordship of Christ the overall key to Christian growth?

TRIANGLE SIDE 3:

Discuss this:

Do all Christians have the indwelling Holy Spirit?

Discuss this:

Why can Christian growth and maturity be elusive, despite the presence of the indwelling Spirit?

Discuss this:

“True religion is ‘the life of God in the soul of man.’” - Henry Scougal

Discuss this:

What is the primary way that we “*keep in step with the Spirit*” (*Galatians 5:25*)?

Discuss this:

What is the primary way that we “*extinguish the Spirit*” (*1 Thessalonians 5:19*)?

HINDERING THE SPIRIT’S WORK

Discuss this:

What is the definition of “unrepentant sin?”

Discuss this:

Why is any compromise with sin on our part is deadly serious?

A. _____

B. _____

Discuss this:

Why did Jesus tell the woman caught in adultery, “Go and sin no more” (John 8:11)?

UNFORGIVENESS

Discuss this:

Are there to be any limits to the forgiveness that we extend to others?

Discuss this:

What is the connection between faith and forgiveness?

“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.

Discuss this:

“Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? Won’t he rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’” Luke 17

Discuss this:

In practical terms, what does forgiveness mean?

A. _____

B. _____

Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” Matthew 5:43-44

Discuss this:

“Well, how can I be helpful to them if they refuse the type of help that they actually need?”

Discuss this:

“Are we supposed to forgive and forget?”

Discuss this:

They won't accept your forgiveness? They won't acknowledge what they did wrong? They won't reconcile?

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13

Discuss this:

How can you tell that genuine forgiveness has occurred in yourself?

Discuss this:

What steps should you take if you are trying and struggling to forgive?

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

Discuss this:

Why did Jesus teach that unforgiving people are blind and deluded people?

Discuss this:

"We can cause temporary and very real harm to people. But not permanent harm."

Discuss this:

Forgiving God, others, and ourselves are all absolutely crucial to our wellbeing and they all three go together.

COOPERATING WITH THE SPIRIT'S WORK

The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

Romans, Chapter 8

Discuss this:

What is “*the flesh*?”

Discuss this:

Is *the flesh* good or bad?

Discuss this:

What happens when *the flesh* is in the driver's seat in our lives?

Why is that?

The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41).

Discuss this:

Why do we have a tendency to want to operate according to the flesh that is persistent and quite difficult to eradicate?

A. _____

B. _____

Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. Galatians 5:16-17

Discuss this:

When the Bible uses the term “walk” what does that mean?

Abide in me. John 15:4

Discuss this:

What is the single, fundamental question that will by and large determine what type of life you will live?

The mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. Romans 8:6.

Discuss this:

What did Dallas Willard mean when he advised Christians to, “just quit trying to be righteous?”

1 Corinthians 13 love is patient, love is kind, etc.

Love comes from God, 1 John (4:7).

Discuss this:

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Why would they glorify God when they see your good deeds?

Discuss this:

When we are walking in the Spirit, it is not “God did it”, nor is it “I did it”. Instead, it is “we did it”.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20-21

I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 1 Corinthians 15:10

Discuss this:

Abiding can be difficult for us. The flesh is thorny and is always reasserting itself. And so, we must learn to abide. How do we do this?

A. _____

B. _____

Discuss this:

Why are both the refraining and the partaking that the practices provide us critical?

Discuss this:

What did George Müller come to find out about abiding?

Discuss this:

What did Brother Lawrence come to find out about abiding?

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

Discuss this:

When there is an area of ongoing failing in myself, or another, how does this relate to the triangle of transformation?