

...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembly together...but encouraging one another.
Heb 10:24-25

Share the teaching
Guard the sharing

Male Call

May 23, 2008—Atonement—Relationship Restored: Us With God; Part I

6:00 – 6:05	Coffee & Donuts Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	<p>1) Something is wrong: the world shouldn't be this way 2) We are complicit in what has gone wrong 3) Sin is systemically organic 4) Something must be done about it, and we can't do it a) God's salvific plan in Gen 3:15</p> <p>God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. (Romans 8:29, <i>The Message</i>)</p> <p>5) Likeness Test: Rate yourself—In your growth toward Christ-likeness, are you:¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Immature <input type="checkbox"/> Mature <input type="checkbox"/> Very Mature <input type="checkbox"/> Got it Made</p> <p><i>What criteria did you use to make your decision?</i></p> <p>6) <i>Discipleship is the process that takes place in the believer, as the life of the Spirit of God transforms our spirit through deepening intimacy with the Trinity, changing our being from the inside out into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Discipleship also involves the believer's intentional response to God in this transformation process. The goal of this process in the believer is the reflection of God's glory in love.</i>²</p> <p>7) The point of discipleship is to be made Christ-like. It is a relationship based on: <input type="checkbox"/> Personal holiness <input type="checkbox"/> Service (usefulness to God) <input type="checkbox"/> Personal wellness (wholeness) <input type="checkbox"/> Love</p>

¹ Thanks to Dr. Tom Ashbrook, *Imago Christi*, for this test.

² *Imago Christi's* Discovery Retreat workbook, ver 8b. 34.

	<p>8) Read Ps 139:17-18—Imagine God thinking of you. What do you assume God feels when you come to mind?³</p> <p>a) How does your answer to this question shape your discipleship journey?</p> <p>i) What comes to mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us. –Tozer</p> <p>9) How well do men return love?</p> <p><i>Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband. (Eph 5:33)</i></p> <p>a) Can we love perfectly?</p> <p><i>To fret about the quality of our love is to miss the point. Yes, we examine ourselves, confess our failings, and pray for grace to offer the best. But it will never be good enough, unless with all its flaws it is handed over and taken up into his love for the Father.⁴</i></p> <p>10) Love: earned or given</p> <p>a) What’s the difference? (<i>Are you an employee of God or a child of God?</i>)</p> <p>b) Read Mt 11:28-30. How does one find this rest in Jesus?</p> <p>i) Submission comes from unconditional trust and love</p> <p>11) How did your assignment go to write a letter to God: Dear God, I want to trust you, but...</p>
7:00	<p>Closing Prayer</p> <p><i>My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you’ll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ’s love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God. (Eph 3:14-20, The Message)</i></p>

Further reading:

- *The Bible*
- Benner, David G. *Surrender to Love*. IVP Books. 2003.
- Neuhaus, Richard John. *Death on a Friday Afternoon*. Basic Books. 2000.

³ Benner, David G. *Surrender to Love*. IVP Books. 2003. 15.

⁴ Neuhaus, Richard John. *Death on a Friday Afternoon*. Basic Books. 2000. 235.