

Does your Christianity make any Difference?
The Foundation, part 1
John 14.7-14
January 17, 2016

Premise: most of us are shaped more by tradition and culture than we are by the Bible.

What ought to hit us after reading our text?

1. Do you have evidence that you know Jesus well?

- † Do we know Jesus' character, His purposes, and His plan?
- † Do we understand that since He gave every minute of His 30+ years on this earth for God's plan of saving us that we ought to spend our lives for that cause?
- † The issue can be boiled down to this: are we in a loving, growing relationship with Jesus?

2. Where are your greater works? – v. 12

- † How do "greater works" happen? The key is found in vv. 16-17 – the promise of the Holy Spirit.
- † Is it possible that we don't see God's manifest power because we are far more shaped by our tradition, culture, and experience than we are by the Bible?

3. Where is your answered prayer? – vv. 13-14

- † Whatever you ask in taking on Jesus' character, He will do.
- † What we must do is make the connection between our prayer life and the power of God being manifested in our life.
- † A relationship with Jesus comes prior and takes priority over demonstrated power and answered prayer.
- † Demonstrated power and answered prayer flow from the relationship with Jesus!

How do we move from a cultural, traditional, experience-oriented Christianity to biblical Christianity?

1. Quit playing at our relationship with God

† We don't make time for our relationship.

2. Remember the main thing we're here for

† As believers, we're here for God's glory, God's renown, and God's purposes.

† God's purposes are to know and love Him, be in community with others, to serve others, and be highly involved with Him as He draws a lost world to Himself.

3. Reduce the large, growing gap between what we know and what we do.

† For many of us, we ought to set aside learning more until we begin to do what we already know.

4. Stop judging the Bible by your experience. Instead, judge your experience by the Bible.

† Don't take a passage that is clearly meant for all times and try to explain it away because it doesn't fit your experience!

† Admit where you are, but refuse to stay where you are!