

# Reformed University Fellowship Training Disciples Conference

## Session 7: Strong in Christ's Grace

- I. Commission to the Church (*Matthew 28:18-20a*; Luke 24:42; Acts 1:8)
  - A. Jesus has authority over all earth.
  - B. Jesus is establishing his Kingdom (ref. Lord's prayer).
  - C. We are caught in an eternal, life or death conflict.
  - D. This is reality.
  
- II. Will Jesus win?
  - A. Will his kingdom prevail?
  - B. Have *you* won kingdom battles?
  - C. Is there any evidence on your campuses that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords? Or does He look like a tribal deity – able to help his own, but not able to overcome other kingdoms?
  - D. Jesus' kingdom will win. *Matthew 16:18*; *2 Corinthians 2:14*
  - E. Two keys to winning.
    - 1. Leadership: *2 Timothy 2:2*; Ephesians 4:11-12
    - 2. Leadership attitude: friendship and servanthood. *John 13:3-5, 12-17*
  - F. Godly leaders *will* lead the church to victory and growth.
  
- III. Problem.
  - A. Feeling inadequate, or cocky.
    - 1. How can I train others?
    - 2. How can I be a *selfless* friend?
    - 3. How can I be a *godly* example?
    - 4. How can I love, even to death?
  
  - B. Answer: Grace is promised. *Matthew 28:20b*, *2 Timothy 2:1*, Ephesians 1:3-4, 18-20
  
  - C. What does it mean to be strong in Christ's grace?
    - 1. Put *confidence* in Christ.
    - 2. Draw *strength* from Christ.
  
- IV. Confidence in Christ.
  - A. Philippians 3:1-11.
    - 1. Theme: rejoicing.
    - 2. Also deals with confidence. (vs 3-4)
  
  - B. Verses 4-6: Hindrances to confidence.
    - 1. Circumcised – ritual – certain type of religious experience: liturgy, charismatic, Sabbatarian, conversion experience, baptism.
    - 2. Benjamite – parents, family – grew up in Christian home, went to church.
    - 3. Pharisee – self-righteous – don't smoke, kill, go to frat. parties; do go to LGM
    - 4. Zeal – our energy – self-made man, doing 50 jobs in RUF.
    - 5. Others – appearance, natural gifts (intelligence, speaking ability), possessions, lack of ability.
  
  - C. Verse 7: Response – Count them loss, worthless.
  
  - D. Verse 8: Replace with Christ, his presence.
  
  - E. These hindrances are as valuable and pleasant as cow manure. We put them out of our lives so the sweet aroma of Christ's presence can purify us. When we cling to them, it's like bringing big pots of manure to decorate the living room.
    - 1. Kyle - outward appearances vs. condition of room.
    - 2. Instead, we rejoice in Christ's presence and long to know him.

- F. Verse 9: We bear Christ's righteousness – perfection (Hymn #87)
  - G. Implication of bearing Christ's righteousness.
    - 1. Salvation – peace with God; His wrath satisfied.
    - 2. Peace (with ourselves) – we trust in Christ's work; don't struggle for acceptance with God.
    - 3. Forgiveness (peace with others) – we forgive ourselves, we forgive others; God forgives us because we bear Christ's righteousness.
    - 4. Fellowship with God – entrance into His presence because of Christ's perfection.
  - H. Verse 10: Driving goals.
    - 1. Know Christ.
    - 2. Know power of His resurrection.
    - 3. Know fellowship of his sufferings.
  - I. Confidence in ministry does not come primarily in acquiring skills, or gathering experience, or realizing "success". Confidence in ministry comes primarily in recognizing and turning from our weak selves and accepting and focusing on the perfection and power of Christ.
- V. Strength in Christ.
- A. John 15:1-11.
  - B. Draw strength from Christ, as a branch does from the vine.
  - C. Means of Grace: Prayer, scripture, sacraments.
  - D. Strength for ministry comes from Christ. We get it through being with him, in prayer, Bible study, and worship.
- VI. Conclusion.
- A. People follow Christ as they see him in us.
  - B. They must see Him in us.
  - C. We call people to imitate us.
  - D. In the face of weakness.
  - E. We lead with strength because of Christ.