

Sermon Discussion Guide

The Gate Has A Name

Overview

Athletes give themselves over fully to a support, and Paul picks up on this theme in I Corinthians 9 when he says, “Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” Being a disciple of Jesus involves a dedicated commitment to Jesus. Responding to God’s unearned grace and following the way of righteousness and life requires commitment and effort.

Passage

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Matthew 7:13-14

Questions

Quick review

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

Getting Practical

1. Thinking back on your own personal story, how have you noticed the “two ways” playing out in your life? When have you been on “the way of death” and how has that been different than walking “the way of life”?
2. Why do you think we’re so tempted to walk down “the way of death”? (verse 13)
3. Why do you think “the road that leads to life” is narrow? Why is it so difficult to walk down?
4. There are (at least) two ways we can relate to effort in an unhelpful way.
 - a. One way is believing our effort is necessary for God to love us. Where do you think this belief and way of relating to God comes from?
 - b. The other way is believing the spiritual life doesn’t require any effort. Where do you think this belief and way of relating to God comes from?
5. How do you personally relate to effort in your spiritual formation? Which of those things do you relate more to? Or is it something else? Why do you think that is?

6. Where is God gently inviting you to respond to His grace with some effort and/or intentionality this week?

Action Steps

Practice

- Take Step One – Enter into relationship with Jesus
- Take Step Two – Continue along the path of discipleship with Jesus

Prayerful Reflection

- If you're not ready for step one, why not? What's getting in the way for you?
- If you have taken step one, how is your discipleship to Jesus going these days?
- Is my character becoming more like the character of Jesus?
- Am I embodying the fruit of the Spirit in my everyday life and interactions?
- Am I actually practicing Jesus' teachings in my life alongside others?