Jesus & 21st Century Cliques

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INTRODUCTION

- We need to be careful in employing such a term to describe God's people because it is so negatively charged, and you are impugning the motives.
- Look this word up in the dictionary, and you'll find a definition like this. An exclusive group of friends or associates.
- What does the Bible have to say about this and disciple association, and what do we learn from the example of Jesus and his disciples?

1 Jesus and the Multitudes, Twelve, Three, and One

Mark 5:37; Mark 9:2; Mark 14:32–33

- Jesus, of course, cared about the multitudes. He often expressed compassion for the multitudes, and thus he taught them.
- He selected and commissioned a specific group of 70 to be special envoys on his behalf in Luke 10 and verse 1.
- Notice we did not call them the inner clique. But the inner circle of disciples, and we know who they were, Peter, James, and John.
- But remember, he wasn't exclusive. He associated with a group larger than the three. He associated with twelve. He associated with the multitudes.
- But there was one disciple that he sustained an extremely close relationship to, the beloved disciple.

2 Jesus Could Not Sustain an Equal Relationship With All

- Jesus could not sustain an equal relationship with all. And if he attempted to do so, he would have been close to no one.
- You cannot be best friends with everybody. You cannot sustain equal relationships in the local church with everybody.
- No one can do this. And Jesus did not do this.

3 He Was Closer to Some Than Others

- He was closer to some than he was others. And we've got to accept that in the local church.
- He loved every disciple. Each received the same quality of love, but not the same quantity of time and association.
- Jesus loved every disciple, but he did not spend the same amount of time with every disciple.

4 Every Member's Important in the Body

1 Corinthians 12:13; 1 Corinthians 12:24; Luke 6

- You were all baptized by one spirit into one body.
- He gives more abundant honor to the member that lacks.
- All members of the body of Christ are important.
- There should be no division in the body, and all the members have the same care one for another.
- We need to be looking out for those that are feeling neglected or on the outside looking in.
- Whatever you're expecting of other people to do in relation to you, then you've got to do that also.

5 Avoid These Extremes

Romans 12:10; Romans 12:15; Romans 12:16

- Let love be without hypocrisy. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.
- Number one, establishing a select exclusive group of friends in the local church.
- Get out of your comfort zone a little. Relate to someone else because ultimately I have responsibility to every other member of the local church.
- It is natural to gravitate toward people who have the same interests as you.
- Okay, you have expectations of what they need to do. So why don't you do what you're expecting them to do?

THE CHALLENGE

But let us love one another. By this, all men will know that you are my disciples, John said. Let us walk as he walked. Jesus expressed love for every disciple. And let us make sure that we are doing the same.

MY NOTES