



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

BREAKING THE ICE

Are you a front stage person or backstage person - meaning do you like to be the center of attention or in the background?

When looking at someone's front stage persona (reputation) - who would you most like to model yourself after? Do you think their front stage (reputation) matches their backstage (character)?



MAIN CONTENT

Last week we started our Larger Than Likes series. At the end of our group, we had a few questions we asked for you to come back and discuss.

1. How does the time you spend on social media affect your influence on others?
2. Who are the people in your life that are influencing you? How are they influencing you and your relationship with Jesus?

This week, as we continued talking about influence, Pastor Kevin broke down the difference between our front stage and backstage personas. Our front stage is how we manage ourselves when we are around others, in other words, it's our reputation. Our backstage is who we really are in private and reveals our character.





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MAIN CONTENT

3. How do you feel your front stage (reputation) and backstage (character) integrate with each other? How would someone else (friends and acquaintances) say your reputation and character integrate with one another?

Integrity is when character and reputation are the same and result in an integrated life.

We all have moments in our lives where our front stage reputation does not align with our backstage character. This misalignment causes us to sin.

4. Describe a time where your reputation and character didn't line up. What was the effect of that situation?

Read Matthew 9:9-13

God knows we will sin, He doesn't call us to be perfect and sinless. God actually sent Jesus for the sinners, not the righteous. The only way Jesus can help us is to know that we are all sinners and the good news is, He loves the current version of us, sin and all. We don't have to come to Him perfected.

As we spend time in relationship with Him, transformation happens in our lives and our character becomes more like Jesus.

So, how do we build character? 1. We draw near to God; 2. Refuse to hide and 3. Practice instant obedience.





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5. Which one of these steps is easiest for you? Draw near to God, refuse to hide or practice instant obedience? Which one is the hardest for you?

God wants us to draw near to Him. In His kindness, He pursues an intimate relationship with us. He is always there, waiting to hear from us. When we pray to Him, our hearts are opened to His presence.

6. How intimate is your relationship with God? How much time do you spend with Him? How honest are you when you talk with Him?

Read John 1:8

There is no backstage with God. He wants you to bring the “real” you to Him, the real God. When we refuse to hide and we are completely transparent with Him, confessing our sins, healing can start to take place in our lives.

Read John 5:16

Not only is it important to confess to God, but it’s important to confess to others. When we refuse to hide and confess to God and others with prayer, healing takes place.

7. Describe a time where your confession to God led to confessing to a trusted friend. How did this confession help you heal?

The last way we work on our character is to practice instant obedience. We practice instant obedience when we follow Jesus and do what He has called or asked us to do.

8. Are you currently practicing instant obedience to God in your life? Why or why not?





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PRAYER

Thank you, God, for the opportunity to build our character to be like yours. Will you show us where we have things in our lives that keep us from an intimate relationship with you and help us draw near to you? Unearth the things we have hiding in our lives so we can confess and be freed and healed from our sins. Open our eyes to see where we need to practice instant obedience and follow you. Help us as a group keep each other accountable, pray for one another, lift each others' burdens and be accepting of one another as we confess to each another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

Leaders: you can choose to do this action step at the end of the group or encourage group members to participate this week and come back next week with their discoveries.

This week spend some time drawing near to God by doing the following things:

1. Ask God, "what keeps me from drawing near to you in an intimate relationship? Where and what am I hiding from you?"
2. Spend time in prayer confessing what you feel you need to confess to God. Maybe you can be brave and confess to a group member (or trusted friend) where you have been struggling asking them to pray with you so you can continue the healing process.
3. After spending time in confession practice instant obedience to what God is asking you to do. Pray and ask Him, where you need to practice obedience and do it.

