



Spiritual Conversations

Class 7, March 4, Marks of Maturity Series

Spiritual conversation with one another as a primary means of building up the body (Ephesians 4:15) and as a primary means of evangelism (Col. 4:6)

Building up/growth

Ephesians 4:14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Small groups
Bible study classes
Dinner groups
Movie groups

Music/speaker events
Casa Chirilagua
Carpenters Shelter
Marih Center

Retreats
Women's ministry
Overseas missions
Prayer groups

Your Testimony

Acts 1: 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

I Corinthians 12: 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace... 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift... 11 And he gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 2: 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Wendell Berry on vocation:The old and honorable ideal of ‘vocation’ is simply that we each are called, by God, or by our gifts, or by our preference, to a kind of good work for which we are particularly fitted.

Martin Luther on vocation

If you are a manual laborer, you find that the Bible has been put into your workshop, into your hand, into your heart. It teaches and preaches how you should treat your neighbor. Just look at your tools—at your needle or thimble, your beer barrel, your goods, your scales or yardsticks or measure—and you will read this statement inscribed on them. Everywhere you look, it stares at you. Nothing that you handle every day is so tin that it does not continually tell you this, if you will only listen. Indeed, there is no shortage of preaching. You have as many preachers as you have transactions, goods, tools and other equipment in your house and home. All this is continually crying to you: “Friend, use me in your relations with your neighbor just as you would want your neighbor to use his property in his relations with you.”

Philip Yancey on the church

As I look around on Sunday morning at the people populating the pews, I see the risk that God has assumed. For whatever reason, God now reveals himself in the world not through a pillar of smoke and fire, not even through the physical body of his Son in Galilee, but through the mongrel collection that comprises my local church and every other such gathering in God’s name.”

Colossians 1: 27 To the Lord’s people, God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. 29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Four Spiritual Laws

1. God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.
2. People are sinful and separated from God, so we cannot know and experience God’s love and plan for our lives.
3. Jesus Christ is God’s only provision for our sin, and through him we can know and experience God’s love and plan for our lives.
4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord in order to know and experience his love and plan for our lives.

The Holy Spirit

John 16: 8 And when he comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Nine arts of spiritual conversations:

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| 1. Noticing | 6. Welcoming |
| 2. Praying | 7. Facilitating |
| 3. Listening | 8. Serving Together |
| 4. Asking Questions | 9. Sharing. |
| 5. Loving | |