

D-LIFE BOOT CAMP

Training for a lifestyle
of discipleship.



Keeping it Real

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Dale L. Crawley Sr.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Rev. Dr. Deborah Crawley, Teacher

Sis. Tammi Brown, Asst. Teacher

TRUTH, PERCEPTION & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

How Human Beings Are Formed by What They Behold

The Christian life is not merely about behavior modification. Scripture presents spiritual formation as something much deeper. Human beings are continually shaped by what they behold, love, pursue, and worship. What consistently captures attention eventually shapes perception, desires, identity, and ultimately the direction of life itself.

Modern culture constantly competes for attention through outrage, distraction, fear, entertainment, vanity, and endless digital stimulation. Many believers assume the greatest spiritual danger is simply immoral behavior, while overlooking the deeper issue of formation. The battle is not only over actions. It is also over perception, affection, imagination, and worship.

The question is no longer simply, "What are people doing?" The deeper question becomes, "What is shaping them?"

Formation Through Attention, Desire & Worship

Human beings are not merely rational creatures who move through life making detached intellectual decisions. Scripture reveals that human beings are worshipping creatures. What we love, exalt, pursue, and continually behold eventually shapes us.

Psalms 115 teaches that people become like what they worship. Worship is spiritually formative. It shapes perception, identity, values, desires, and the direction of the inner life. This is why idolatry is so spiritually destructive. False worship eventually distorts the human person.

Modern idolatry may not appear through carved statues or visible altars. It often appears through obsession with self, endless distraction, fear-driven living, emotional manipulation, image management, consumerism, or digital fixation. Whatever consistently occupies the heart eventually begins forming the soul.

This is why attention matters spiritually. Attention is never neutral. What repeatedly captures the gaze eventually shapes affection, imagination, and perception.

Perception, Truth & The Fallen Mind

One of the effects of sin is distorted perception. Human beings do not naturally interpret reality clearly. Romans chapter one demonstrates that disordered worship eventually produces distorted thinking. When worship becomes disordered, perception becomes distorted as well.

Modern culture often treats truth as emotional, personal, flexible, or self-defined. Scripture presents truth very differently. Truth is not merely information that is correct. Truth is reality interpreted through God.

This is why discernment cannot merely be intellectual. Discernment is spiritual perception rooted in truth. The believer is called to interpret reality through the character, wisdom, and revelation of God rather than through emotional manipulation, fear, outrage, or cultural confusion.

The Christian mind must continually be renewed because fallen humanity naturally drifts toward distorted perception and disordered loves.

Beholding & Spiritual Transformation

Second Corinthians 3:18 teaches that believers are transformed through beholding the glory of the Lord. This reveals something profound about spiritual formation. Transformation happens through communion with Christ.

The Christian life is not sustained merely through information accumulation. It is sustained through abiding, worship, communion, meditation upon Scripture, prayer, and continual orientation toward Christ.

What people repeatedly behold shapes the imagination and the inner world. Constant exposure to outrage, vanity, fear, lust, comparison, and chaos eventually forms those same realities within the soul. In contrast, beholding Christ forms humility, wisdom, discernment, peace, stability, and spiritual maturity.

This is why Scripture repeatedly calls believers to set their minds upon things above. Formation is deeply connected to attention and affection.

Discernment In an Age of Distortion

Discernment is often misunderstood. Biblical discernment is not paranoia, cynicism, or suspicion. It is spiritually trained perception rooted in truth and wisdom.

Hebrews 5 teaches that spiritual maturity develops through consistent exercise and spiritual training. Mature believers learn to discern carefully rather than reacting emotionally to every voice, trend, or cultural movement around them.

Modern culture frequently manipulates through fear, outrage, emotional intensity, and constant stimulation. Strong emotional reactions are often mistaken for truth. Yet emotional intensity does not automatically equal spiritual accuracy.

Mature believers learn to slow down, think carefully, remain rooted in Scripture, and evaluate reality through theological truth rather than emotional chaos.

Living Theologically in A Distracted World

Living theologically means interpreting reality through the truth of God rather than through cultural confusion. It means allowing Scripture, worship, communion with Christ, wisdom, and spiritual maturity to shape perception and identity.

The issue is not simply avoiding bad influences. The deeper issue is what consistently forms the inner life. Whatever repeatedly shapes attention eventually shapes worship. Whatever shapes worship eventually shapes living.

Believers are therefore called to guard attention carefully. What fills the mind, imagination, and heart matters spiritually. Spiritual formation is not merely behavioral. It is perceptual.

The world competes for attention because attention shapes the soul.

Reflection Questions

1. What most consistently shapes your attention and imagination right now?
2. In what ways does culture compete for worship, affection, and perception?
3. How does beholding Christ transform the believer according to Scripture?
4. What practical spiritual habits help cultivate discernment and stability?

5. How can believers remain spiritually grounded in a culture driven by distraction and emotional manipulation?

Closing Scripture

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You...”

— Isaiah 26:3