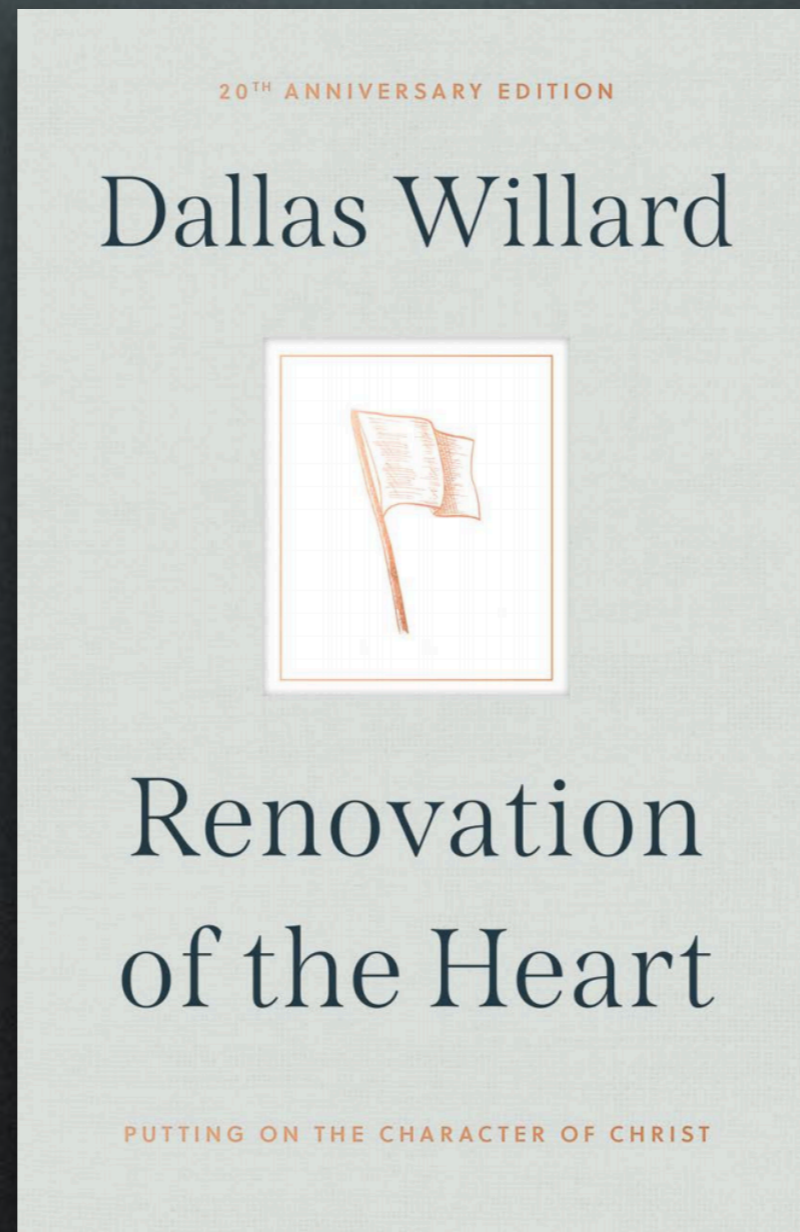


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RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 10 - Transforming Our Social Dimension - Chapter 10



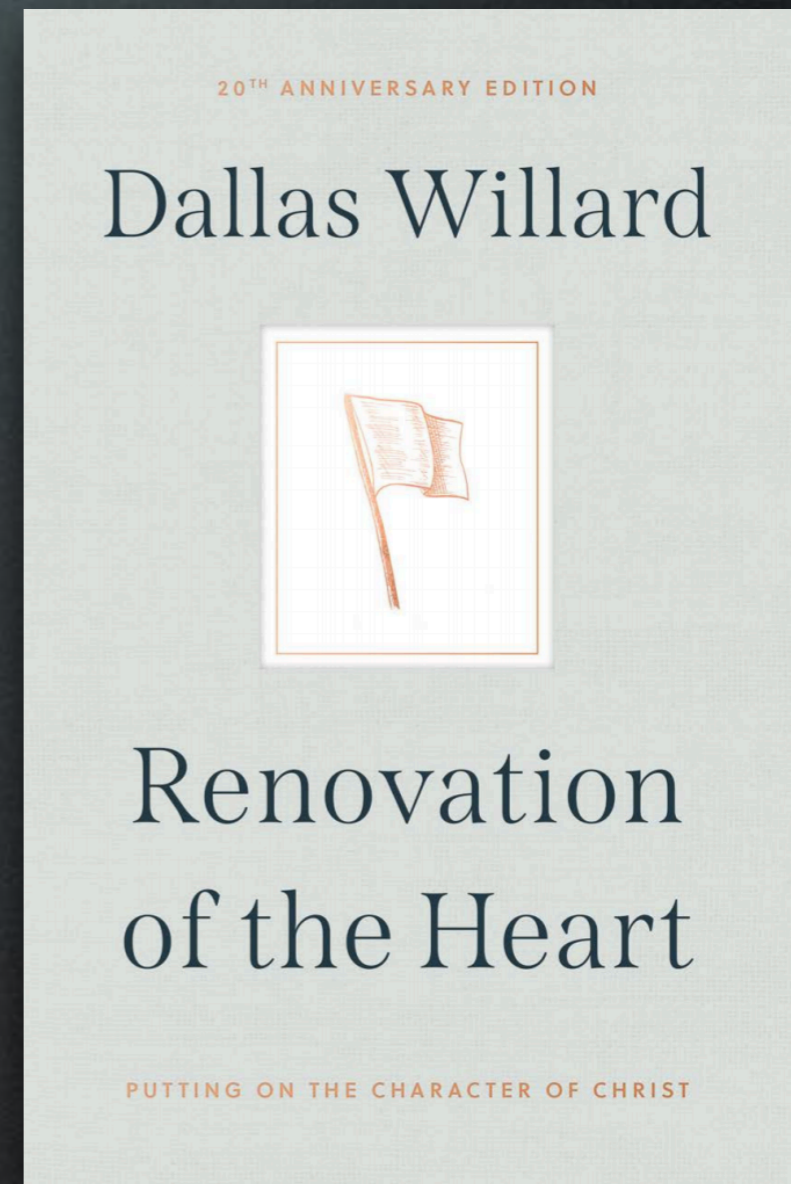
Session 9 Review

Our body is our personal power pack that literally fleshes out our character through our ingrained, trained tendencies that can combat or compel the way of Jesus. By God's grace through our chosen disciplines, we can grow in the incarnate habits of Christ through our physical dimension.

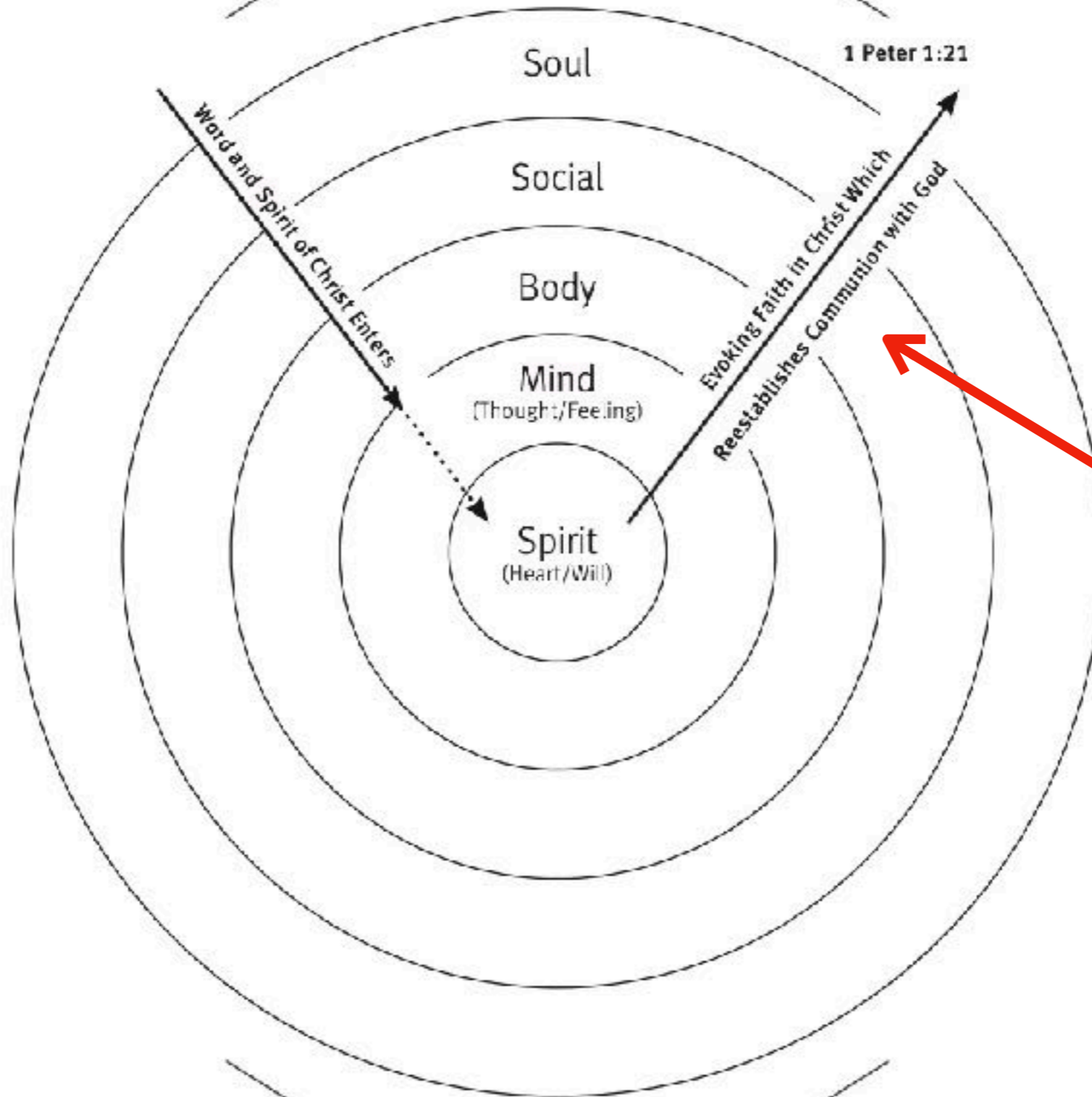
“What incredible grace lies in the spiritual transformation of the body.”

Dallas Willard

Renovation of the Heart



Infinite Environment



1 Peter 1:21

Word and Spirit of Christ Enters

Evoking Faith in Christ Which Reestablishes Communion with God

“Our Social” Dimension

Six Dimensions of Human Nature

Infinite Environment

2021::33
2002::38

RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 10 - Transforming Our Social Dimension - Chapter 10

Circles of Sufficiency

The natural condition of life for human beings is one of reciprocal rootedness in others. There are many ways this can be present in individual cases, but it must be there. If it is not, we are about walking wounded, our lives will more or less be in shambles until we die.

When the required type of “for-ness” is adequately present, human “Circles of Sufficiency” emerge.

2021 Edition::185

2002 Edition::179

The Ultimate Circle of Sufficiency

Ultimately, every human circle is doomed to dissolution if it is not caught up in the life of the only genuinely self sufficient Circle of Sufficiency, that of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For that circle is the only one that is truly and totally self sufficient. And all the broken circles must ultimately find their healing there, if anywhere.

Review from the book's Preface — *You are an unceasing spiritual being, created for an intimate and transforming friendship with the creative Community called the Trinity.*



2021::186
2002::180



The Reality of Rejection

If a child is totally received in his early years by his parents and siblings [and grandparents] he will likely have a rootedness about him that will enable him to withstand most forms of rejection that may come upon a human being. He will carry his solid relationships to and from his family members throughout life, being sustained by them even long after those loved ones are dead. He will receive a steady stream of rest and strength from them.

By contrast, a small child not adequately received in this world is likely to be incapable of giving and receiving love in decent human relationships for the rest of his life. He will be perpetually left out, if only in his imagination. And in this matter, imagination can have the force of reality.

2021::186-187//2002::180-181

RENOVATION OF THE HEART

Session 10 - Transforming Our Social Dimension - Chapter 10

The Two Forms of Evil — *The Poison of Sin*

Assault & Withdrawal

If spiritual formation in Christ is to succeed, the power of the two forms of evil in our own life — within our self — absolutely must be broken.



2021::187
2002::181



Understanding Assault & Withdrawal

Assault – Act against what is good for others.

Withdrawal – Indifferent to the well being and goodness of others. *We don't care.*

How lovelessness work.



2021::188
2002::182



Formation is Not Private

Spiritual formation, good or bad, is always profoundly social. Relationships must be transformed if I am to be transformed.

Jesus gave a sure mark of the outcome of spiritual formation: We become people who love one another.

"Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34-35)

The "love" in question here is identified is what we do in Christ, as He has done for us. This love makes us ready to...

"lay down our lives for one another." (1 John 3:16)

Failure to love others as Jesus loves us chokes off the flow of the eternal kind of life that our whole human system cries out for.

2021::188-189

2002::182-183

Love Deeply Rooted in Human Nature

Love comes to us from God. That must be our unshakeable circle of sufficiency.

These teachings of Jesus are deeply rooted in our basic nature. Love expresses itself in the beautiful “Circles of Sufficiency”.

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:13



2021::189-190

2002::182-183

God is Love


Such love is possible because of what God is: love. God is love and sustains love for us from His basic reality as love, which dictates His Trinitarian nature. God is in Himself a sweet society of love where three persons complete a social matrix. Not only does each one love and receive love, but each has a shared love for another, the third person.

The nature of personality is inherently communal, and only the Trinity does justice to what personality is. This sort of love is meant to happen routinely among God's people.

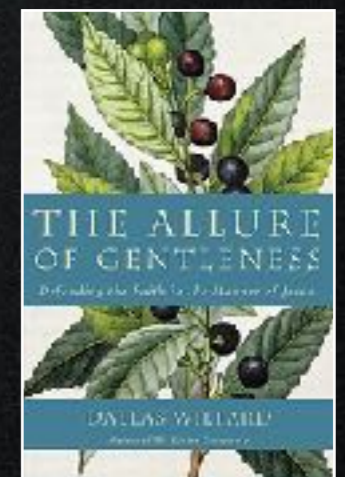


2021::190-191
2002::184

Christlike people living together with the kind of love that the members of the Trinity have for one another and enjoying that full, shared, self-subsistent being that characterizes God Himself as God dwells in those people.



You are part
of that! You
share in that!



Dallas Willard
The Allure of Gentleness, p. 95-96

Spiritual Formation in Christ

When we place our confidence in Jesus, He takes us in and forms a “Circle of Sufficiency” that is real and ultimate.

The flow of loving presence from Him extends through others to us and from us to others.

This must happen within the imperfect communities and congregations available to us now.



2021::193
2002::186-187

What is Wrong in Social Spiritual Formation

ASSAULT arises from conflict of desire - Envy, resentment, contempt lead to theft, lying, murder, adultery and attitudes of covetousness. * Cain

Ten Commandments #6-10 = Assault

#6 - Honor Your Father & Mother

“Violation of it disrupts the human soul and makes dysfunctional people as nothing else does.”

The Power of the Tongue



2021::193-194
2002::187

What is Wrong (continued)

WITHDRAWAL is often a form of assault but also weakness, fear, uncertainty.

...vs. “WITH-NESS” with one another for goodwill and respect, a readiness to assist others.

Our Coldness is not normal. — We are constantly in the presence of people who are withdrawn from us.

- A need for approval, attraction, attention

Our world is not normal, only usual.

A few hours in CHURCH will be of little help.

What could we do in our fellowships that would really help make a difference?

2021::194-196

2002::188-189



The Family — Despair of Marriage

To Reverse Attack & Withdrawal:

- 1.) A calm but firm non-cooperation
- 2.) Initiatives of goodwill and blessing

Spiritual Formation must begin in the Family.

Divorce — The problem is people don't know how to be married.

How could they know? Who would teach them?

Marriage — Giving oneself to another person

A womb from which whole human beings emerge.

“Lay down your life for one another.”

Individual desire is now the standard & rule!



2021::196=198

2002::189-191

The Family - Devastation of Children

The inevitable spiritual malformation of children

Their only hope is to become hardened.

Self-gratification & controlling others - or -
Isolation & self-destruction

The next generation of wounded souls producing
sickening shallow solutions to problems such as
“education”, “diversity” or “tolerance”.

Lying far deeper...

Soul structures of Assault & Withdrawal



2021::199-200

2002::192-193



Heal Marriages & Families

Return to the transcendent power of Jesus Christ

Drain Assault, Withdrawal, and Coldness under the ministry of Jesus and His Kingdom.

1> Envision You Whole - Colossians 3:3-4

2> Abandon Defensiveness - To be known for who we really are. Rid of self-justification, evasiveness, deceit, manipulation. No hiding or “look good”.

3> Let Love Be Genuine - Romans 12:9-21

4> Bless & Serve Others

2021::201-205

2002::194-197

Spiritually Transformed Social Dimension

Romans 12:9-21

- Let love be completely real
- Abhorring what is evil
- Clinging to what is good
- Being devoted to one another in family love
- Outdo one another in giving honor
- Serve the Lord with ardent spirit & diligence
- Rejoicing in hope
- Being patient in troubles
- Being devoted constantly in prayer
- Contributing to the needs of the saints
- Pursuing (running after) hospitality
- Bless persecutors and do not cursing them
- Being joyful with those rejoicing, sorrowful with those in sorrow
- Living in harmony with one another
- Not being haughty, but fitting right in with the "lowly"
- Not seeing yourself as wiser
- Never repaying evil with evil
- Having due regard for what everyone takes to be right
- Being at peace with everyone, so as far as it depends on you
- Never taking revenge but leaving to whatever God decides (Dt. 32:35)
- Providing for needy enemies
- Not being overwhelmed by evil, but overwhelming evil with good

Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

(Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen)



Q&A



We go to God for nurture. Now and then, God may use another person to nurture us, but we receive it as from God.

The Lord really is our Shepherd – even in relationships.





80:00 + 10K

Today's Experiment

Pretend you've been hired as a detective agent to watch yourself and analyze your usual methods of attacking or withdrawal. What is the root of the perceive need to attack or withdraw? Picture yourself in Psalm 23:5 - you sit at a table uniquely prepared for you. Sitting across from you is an enemy or two (people who make life difficult) poised for a attack or withdrawal as their form of attack. Now picture God anointing your head with oil – signifying your special usefulness to Him. Notice how your cup is always full so that you feel secure and you never look inadequate to that enemy. If you can do it, try to grin in blessing at your enemy instead attacking.

80:00 + 10K



Today's Experiment

Imagine yourself as a part of a group of disciples of Jesus who made Romans 12:9-21 their shared intension and actually lived it out.

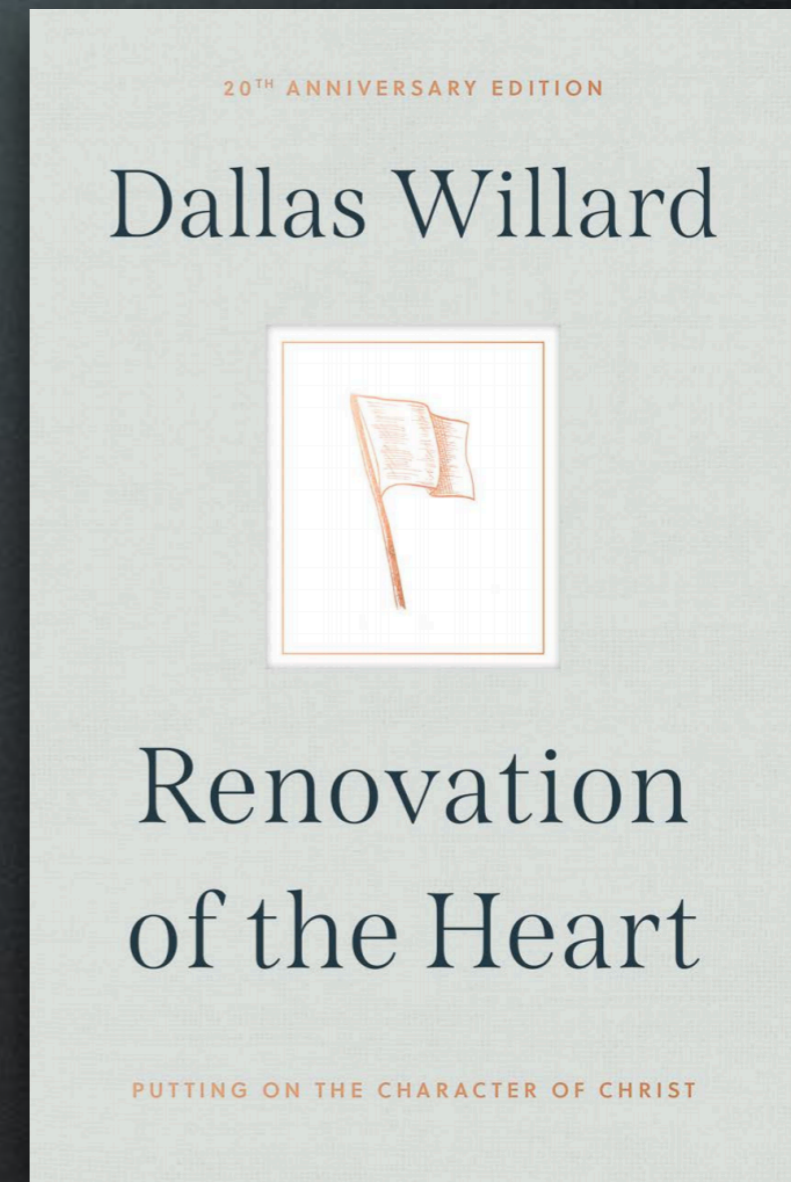
To what group — *His Kingdom Beachhead* — is God calling you to be such a group member today?

Session 10 Summary

To heal the open sore of social existence, congregations of apprentices to Jesus must return to the transcendent power of Christ in which they stand. They must drain the assault and withdrawal, the attacks and coldness, from the individual men and women who form families under their ministry of Jesus and His Kingdom.

2021::201

2002::193-194



Next — Session 11

“Transforming the Soul”
Chapter 11

Renovation of the Heart in Daily Practice
Chapters 47-51



Returning Guest
Dr. Eric Bruns, PsyD
Campbellsville University

JESUS

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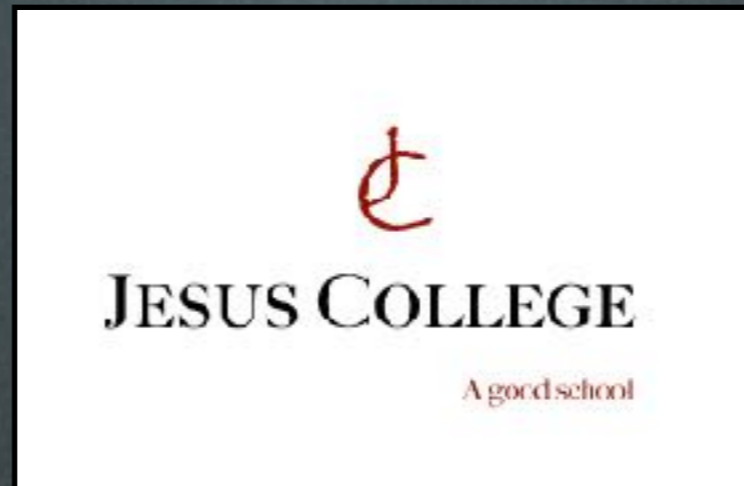
May your next 10,000 minutes be filled with the transcending, Trinitarian love to strengthen your Circles of Sufficiency and drain the poison of assault and withdrawal from your family and our world God so loves.



The SCHOOL of KINGDOM LIVING



Information...Registration — JohnC@dwillard.org



Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns
“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

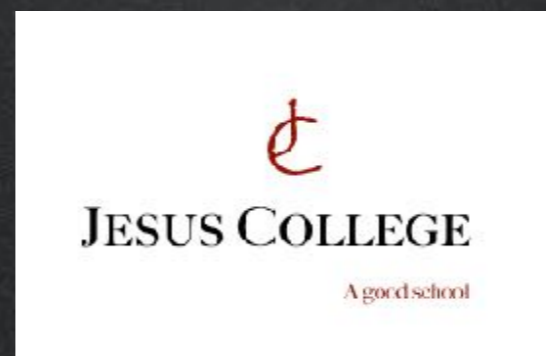
Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs
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