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1 Peter 2:22-25-He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

Set Up

- The title of this series is "Impress"; we aim to impress the things of God.
- We have an enemy who seeks to kill, steal, and destroy – to draw us away.
- In the middle of this, we often voice our disapproval.
- Are we willing to commit to the things of God?
- This series is about God's plan to use the church, His bride, to teach us what it means to live out every area within our families.
- In light of what God has done, we are called to commit to His design.

Commitment

- Throughout Ephesians, Paul breaks down different areas (spheres) of our lives.
- Abide
- Church
- Home & Family
- World & Work
- Spiritual Realm

Ephesians 4:11-13-Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

- Paul is talking about committing our lives to God and learning through His word and church.
- Community of His people, a passing down.
- Exodus to Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 6:3-9,11-12 ³ Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. ⁴ "Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. ⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. ⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ⁸ Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. ¹¹ The houses will be richly stocked with goods you did not produce. You will draw water from cisterns you did not dig, and you will eat from vineyards and olive trees you did not plant. When you have eaten your fill in this land, ¹² be careful not to forget the Lord, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt.

- Examples from my life
- What I want my kids and others to know
- We all need community in God's church
- Two extremes with our families or people we influence

Things to consider:

- What are the challenges we face with our kids and the people around us?
- How do we do this with our spouses, or other people in our lives?
- How do we navigate this in each sphere?

Closing Questions

1. In the face of this culture, will you make a commitment to God's ways?
2. What will it look like to impress on someone in your life this week?
3. How will you take another step into connection?

Communion

1 Peter 2:22-25-He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.

QUESTIONS:

1. *What stood out to you in this week's message?*
2. Read 1 Peter 2:22-25
 - *When was the last time you truly took a minute to thank God for his sacrifice and commitment to you?*
3. *What is one thing that gets in your way from living a life of impressing Christ on those around you?*
4. *Is it ever hard for you to dig into God's church and community? Why?*
5. *You can't impress what hasn't been impressed upon you. How have you abided in Christ this season?*
6. *What is one thing you'd like to try this week in your home/family sphere?*
7. *In which sphere do you feel like you're doing well, and in which could you improve? (Abide, Church, Home, World, Spiritual)*
8. Read Deuteronomy 6:3-9,11-12
9. Prayer requests