# Church People – Formation is Complex Jonathan Cleveland August 25, 2024

### **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

### Church doesn't exist as an end, church exists for an end

The reason for church is not the things we do.

- \*What are good things that detract from the focus of the existence of the church?
- \*How have you seen a church miss the point?
- \*What is the church's reason for existing?

# The core of the church is to help people be formed in the image of Christ and to help people participate in and find their purpose in the Kingdom of God

Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

\*How does this passage describe what is happening with us as Jesus followers?

## The Bible has a lot to say about the formation process

Read and discuss a few of these passages:

John 15:5; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 7:24; Matthew 5:48; I Peter 1:15-16; James 1:27; Matthew 22:37-39; Galatians 5:22-23; Mark 1:17; Matthew 11:29-30

- \*What do some of these verses say about the formation process?
- \*How would you summarize how to be spiritually formed?
- \*What are we to make of Scripture's incredibly diverse descriptions of the spiritual formation process?

### The process of spiritual formation is complex

We are invited to lean into the complex relationship with God and learn to depend on Him.

- \*How have you tried to make the Christian life simple?
- \*What are some of the variables of formation? What things are in and out of our control?
- \*What things help reduce, not erase, complexity?

#### God wants to do some **REWILDING** in your soul

This process is complex, beautiful, deep, fun, and hard.

- \*What does the rewilding term spark in you about your formation?
- \*How has church or church people helped you in your spiritual formation?
- \*What is God doing in your soul lately?