

Fire Pit Topic November 2011: Validation/Affirmation

Definitions: Validation: Having the force or authority, the essence of value and worth. Establishes the foundation for value and worth in a man's life. Affirmation: to ratify or confirm value and worth. To ratify what is already an established fact. It affirms worth, it does not establish it.

How to apply at the chapter meeting: Ask the men if they are trying to find validation through people or things that can really only affirm? How about this idea: True validation can only come from that which cannot be lost. True validation cannot come from wives or women, wealth, or work. Where are you trying to get your validation?

Fire Pit Discussion: Focus Group

1. Discuss the definitions
2. Historical events that illustrate: In Germany, during WWII, Hitler sought validation through conquest, persecution, and demanding allegiance from all those around him. It was never enough and he never felt validated. At the same time, there was a preacher in Germany, Detrick Bonheoffer, who had found his validation in a relation with God. He opposed Hitler and it cost him his life, yet he died having found that which brings real validation and true life.
3. References in the Bible: If you were to contrast the lives of King David and King Saul, you would find many similarities, both were kings, both great warriors, both made a number of mistakes. But why did they have different outcomes? One sought his validation from God- David, the other from men- Saul. (Look at 1st Samuel 9-15 for the story.) Also Psalm 40. David got his validation from God.
4. Illustrated in the life of Jesus: John 5: 19, 30-32, 8: 18. Jesus got his validation from his relationship to his heavenly Father. He did not get it from men, religion, the Law, or anything else.
5. Application: End with some questions like this:
 - a. Where are you trying to get most of your validation?
 - b. Are you trying to get validation from your wife or other women, when they can only affirm you, never validate you?
 - c. You can ruin a relationship if you try to get someone to validate you, when all they can really do is affirm you. Is this happening with you?