

January 29

Five
Forks
Church

Is the
"Traditionalist"
Pathway for
you?

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

Pathways



Each week you are being given an opportunity to take the pathway survey and determine if the given pathway is for you. Take a few minutes to answer the following questions, using a scale of 0-5; with 0 being not true at all and 5 being very true. Record your total score at the bottom, out of a possible 30 points. At the end of the series you will have 9 of these surveys and be able to determine which pathways connect best with you.

____1.

I feel most connected to God when worship services/experiences take me back to my childhood experience of church.

____2.

Rituals like “coming to the altar” as an expression of faith or sharing in communion or witnessing baptism and special dedication ceremonies are inspiring to me.

____3.

Words like tradition, ritual, structure, history, symbol resonate with me. Or walking into “historic places of worship” with stained glass windows and crosses and altars help me to feel like I’m entering God’s presence.

____4.

Participating in formal liturgy or “prayer book” services, placing symbols in my home, office or car and following the significant events in the corporate church calendar are enjoyable to me.

____5.

On a scale of 0-5, how much does the statement describing the hearts cry of the traditionalist pathway resonate with you in comparison with the others?

Naturalist: Let Me Be Outdoors

Sensate: Let Me Experience

Ascetic: Let Me Be Alone

Traditionalist: Let Me Remember

Activist: Let Me Conquer

Caregiver: Let Me Care

Enthusiast: Let Me Celebrate

Contemplative: Let Me Feel

Intellectual: Let Me Think

____6.

I can connect with corporate prayers or creeds of the church: ie. Praying the Lord’s Prayer or personalizing a Psalm or reciting the Apostles Creed are important to me. I feel connected to God when we recite our communion ritual as a church.

Total all of your answers: _____

**The above questionnaire is adapted from Gary Thomas' book, Sacred Pathways (pg. 70-71).*

One Way to Practice the Traditionalist Pathway:

*Below are some suggestions for ways you could intentionally practice the ascetic pathway. Don't get stuck trying to follow this plan, instead, be creative. Adapt it to suit your schedule and personality.

For an in depth practice of the traditionalist pathway...consider purchasing the book: "Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals"

1. **Read** - Psalm 91, 27, 139; Matthew 6:11-18; I Corinthians 11

2. **Connect with God through ritual/symbol/sacrifice.**

- Start and end each day this week by reading the Lord's prayer or one of the Psalms listed above or the Apostle's Creed.
- At the end of the day as you read, the Lord's Prayer or Psalm, pause and think about how those words played out in your day.
- Choose "a worship song or hymn" of the day...listen to the lyrics in the morning, over lunch and again in the evening.
- Select a symbol that represents: one of the Scripture passages above or a fruit of the spirit that you would like to focus on this week (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control.) Place that symbol at home, in your car, in your office. Every time you see the symbol. Think about why it is significant and how it reflects the character of Jesus. Ask God to help you live it out.
- Find a visual in your life, that you see regularly but have never connected to your spiritual life...think about how this visual can become a symbol to remind you of God's presence.
- Sacrifice something significant this week: a food, a TV show, a meal, your cell phone, etc...thank Jesus for the sacrifices he made on your behalf. *Consider, learning more about LENT and how you might put it into practice this year. Lent begins on Feb. 23, 2023.

3. **Consider** these two reflection questions:

-How does my experience of symbol/ritual/sacrifice connect to the Scriptures I read above or to any other Scriptures?

-What does my experience of sacrifice teach me about God, about myself and about my relationship to God?

4. **Prayer** - Talk to God about your experience of ritual/symbol/sacrifice.