

The Illusion Of More Likes

November 8

1. The story of Essensa O'Neill and her obsession with social media is over the top, however can you relate in any way?
 - Always portraying perfection...but inwardly shriveling up?
 - Basing identity on the number of likes?
 - Taking innumerable photo snaps before achieving the perfect pose?

The currency of social media is "likes." What other currencies can you think of that we use to measure popularity or achieve validation? How does an external popularity reveal an inner emptiness?
2. What did you see when Pastor Mark asked what you imagined as you were approaching God? Are you willing to share your vision with the group?
3. Read Matthew 3:16-17 and recall that Christ had done nothing in terms of his mission on earth yet the Father declared his unconditional love for His son. What does this tell us about the Father's love? Why would he do that for us? What does this say about His love for us?
4. We read about adoption as God's children in Romans 8:14-17. Before a child is adopted into a family there is a process. Adoption through an agency involves interviews, the attempt to find a "good match", and sometimes counseling. Private adoption declares: "I choose YOU, child, to come into my family. From now on you will belong to me; you will be loved as you are." Private adoption more closely resembles the Father's adoption. Why do you think we hesitate to embrace the 'Spirit of sonship'? Discuss the heart's response: Abba! Papa! Father! Is this how you perceive Father? Is this the cry of your heart? In what ways can you nourish this response?
5. Pastor Mark used visuals to describe how the Holy Spirit is inside of believers and, in turn, believers are in Christ. How would you explain this to a new believer or to a non-believer?
6. How can the fact that you are who God says you are revolutionize your life? What do you need to do to live differently tomorrow? Share with the group what you will do differently, record your commitments to change and hold each other accountable at your next meeting.