

SEPTEMBER 2026

CONNECT

Monthly Newsletter

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FOR A2C NXT**

LIVING the WORD

5 PRINCIPLES FROM JESUS
FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

FREE - TAKE ONE

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INSIDE OUT

WHEN CHRIST SHAPES
THE HEART,
IT CHANGES
WHAT THE
WORLD SEES.

BY PASTOR
JASON VANDEMARK

“

If you clean the
inside of the cup,
the outside will
become clean also.”

MATTHEW 23:25-26



INSIDE OUT

WHEN CHRIST SHAPES THE HEART,
IT CHANGES WHAT THE WORLD SEES.

 BY PASTOR JASON VANDEMARK

Lately, I have been on this journey of not necessarily reinventing myself, but making myself a little more cohesive. As I enter my 40s, I have a desire for my persona and my style to match my age.

I don't want to look like a 40-year-old who is trying desperately to look and act young. At the same time, I don't want to look like a 40-year-old who already looks like an old man.

It has left me asking a surprisingly personal question:

**What is my style?
Who am I, really?**

When it comes to appearance, everyone seems to have an opinion. But what I have been searching for is something that makes me feel comfortable in my own skin—something that makes me feel confident and authentically myself.

Yet on this journey, the Lord has continued to nudge me with a much deeper thought:

People should see Jesus.

I understand what He means by that spiritually, but I have found myself wondering: *What would Jesus look like in today's culture?*

Again, I'm sure many people would have an opinion. And perhaps that is precisely the problem.

Because the question isn't really about what Jesus would wear. It isn't about a hairstyle, a particular aesthetic, or whether He would fit neatly into our cultural expectations.

It brings me back to what it really means for people to see Jesus in us.

“

**If you clean the
inside of the cup,
the outside will
become clean also.**

The original context of this Scripture deals with the scribes and Pharisees. They had learned how to put on the outward appearance of religion while allowing their inward character to remain corrupted.

They knew how to clean the outside of the cup. But Jesus pointed to something deeper.

There is one statement in this passage that continues to stand out to me: *If you clean the inside of the cup, the outside will become clean also.*

In other words, what happens on the inside eventually manifests itself on the outside.

If I have the heart and mind of Christ developing within me, people should begin to see that pouring out of me.

My character influences my appearance—not simply what I wear, but the way I carry myself, the way I speak, the way I respond to people, and the way I move through this world.

So while I have been working on making my outward appearance a little more cohesive—trying to understand my style, my look, and how I want to present myself—the more important work has been happening somewhere no tailor can reach.

Inside.

I have been looking at the things within me that are not aligned with Christ.

The more I put to death the nature of my flesh, the more the nature of the Spirit can shine through. And the more the Spirit shines through, the more my outward appearance changes.

Eventually, people begin to see something more than me.

They begin to see Christ in me.



“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.

26 You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.”

MATTHEW 23:25–26

So my question for you is simple:

**Do people
see Christ
in you?**

Do they see Jesus as He is revealed in Scripture—not merely the Jesus fashioned by our traditions, religious cultures, preferences, or man-made doctrines?

Because Jesus reminds us that genuine transformation does not begin by polishing the outside.

It begins within.

Clean the inside of the cup, and eventually the outside will reflect what has happened inside. 

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ARE BACK!

There's a place for everyone at A2C NEXT.

As we begin another season of Wednesday night activities, we are excited to see our church come alive with laughter, learning, friendship, and faith! Wednesday nights are a special opportunity to take a break from our busy weeks, reconnect with God, and spend time together as a church family.

We would love for your kids to join us! There is something for every age group:

But Wednesday nights wouldn't be possible without the amazing people who give their time and talents to make it happen! **We need volunteers!** Whether you enjoy working directly with kids, helping with games and activities, preparing snacks, assisting behind the scenes, or simply offering a welcoming smile, there is a place for you to serve.



LITTLES

Ages 3–Kindergarten



Our **Littles** can learn about God's love through age-appropriate lessons, activities, and fun!



A2C KIDS

Grades 1–5



A2C Kids is a place where kids can grow in their faith, make friends, play games, and discover what it means to follow Jesus.



A2C SHIFT

Grades 6–8



A2C Shift gives middle school students a place to connect, ask questions, build friendships, and grow closer to God during these important years.



WE NEED YOU!

Wednesday nights happen because people are willing to serve. There's a place for your gifts, too.

- ✓ Work with kids
- ✓ Games & activities
- ✓ Prepare snacks
- ✓ Help behind the scenes
- ✓ Offer a welcoming smile
- ✓ And so much more!



So come join us this Wednesday night!

Bring your kids, invite a friend, volunteer, and be part of all the fun. We can't wait to grow, serve, laugh, and learn together this year.

THERE TRULY IS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE!

“ Every child who walks through our doors deserves to feel welcomed, loved, and encouraged. ”



NXT KICK-OFF



WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 2



6:30P - 7:30P

BELONG. GROW. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



SEPTEMBER

A2C NXT CLASSES
WEDNESDAYS 6:30-7:30

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAYS 10AM

5

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
7:30-10:00AM

7

LABOR DAY!
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

11

A2C KIDS KICKBALL NIGHT
6 - 7:30PM

20

COMMUNION SUNDAY

22
23

NOODLE MAKING
1PM





**OFFICE
CLOSED**

— ★ ON ★ —

LABOR DAY



— WE WILL REOPEN TUESDAY. —

Living the Words

5 PRINCIPLES FROM JESUS
FOR EVERYDAY LIFE



I recently finished a 40 Day Study – *The Red Letter Challenge* by Zach Zehnder (Red Letter meaning Jesus words spoken in the Bible).

It begins with a question, “why does the world around us and the life we live not look anything like the reality Jesus talks about?” In exploring Christ’s words the author found that Jesus spent a good portion of His time focused on 5 main Principles.

*“As we follow Jesus
and His Words, we find
the life we were made for.”*

– Paula Roth



1

BEING

READING OUR BIBLES.

It is the true story of life. It reveals the one true God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

In the Bible we see Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection and our offered grace, forgiveness, freedom and new life.



2

FORGIVING

No matter how serious or big our sin is God’s grace extends to cover it.

There is endless mercy for us in Jesus.

To receive grace is to receive a gift we do not deserve. To receive mercy is to not receive something we do deserve.



3

SERVING

In today’s world we tend to put ourselves first but Jesus says the opposite.

The ones who are blessed are the ones who serve others and put others before themselves.

We serve because we want to be more like Jesus. A true challenge is to serve others who will not be able to give you anything in return.



4

GIVING

Our attitude about giving should never be to expect something in return.

We worship a God who gave up “himself for us.”

In our giving we want to be like Jesus. There are many ways to give: financially to our church but also through local charities, thrift stores, food pantries, meeting the needs of a struggling friend or neighbor.

The best thing we can do with our gifts are to enjoy, be thankful, and share.



5

GOING

Before we go out and proclaim who God is, let’s remember that we are living out our faith in our homes.

What examples can be made through prayers and conversations as we witness God’s love with our families.

Then as opportunities open for you, share your love and experiences with others.

*These 5 Challenges
are for a lifetime.*

*As we follow Jesus and
His Words, we find the
life we were made for.*



LADIES

Save the Date

SEPTEMBER 10TH

WE ARE STARTING UP OUR
WOMEN'S
Bible Study

We'll finish up where
we left off and begin
our **next study**.

SIGN-UP
SHEET
*coming
soon*



A2C⁺ COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

GOOD FOOD. GOOD PEOPLE. STRONGER TOGETHER.



Everyone
IS WELCOME!



FIRST SATURDAY
— of the month —



7:30 - 10:00 AM

COME HUNGRY. LEAVE ENCOURAGED.



27728 Ayersville Rd

Defiance, OH 43512

(419) 395-1742 - acc@ayersvilletelco.com

a2cchurch.com