

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Great Expectations

Finding hope in a disappointing world

I. Expectations

A. We all have expectations

1. Life tends to be somewhat predictable and that can be comforting
2. Expectations lead to planning, achieving and stability
 - a) *We expect to have a job on Monday morning*
 - b) *We expect our friends will be there for us in hard times.*

B. Expectations lead to hope or rather to an ideal outcome

1. We are not all optimists, but we all have an ideal
2. Those who say their life is horrible talk about what they wish they had

C. Hope can lead to disappointment....kind of

1. Where there is an ideal there is less than ideal
2. Where there is a knowledge of what should happen and what is right there can be an uneasiness when things don't happen and aren't right.
3. The Biblical definition of hope is something that does not disappoint (Rom 5:1-5)
 - a) *Confident expectation with pleasure*
 - b) *Because God is omnipotent we can expect He will do what He says*

II. What do we do when our Expectations are hampered?

A. Acknowledge that our expectations can be subverted (video clip)

1. People will say and do things we can't predict or control
2. The only person that we can change is ourselves

B. Determine if we are going after the right thing (Luke 12:34)

1. We don't always know what's best for us (Prov 14:12)
2. We get selfish and self-destructive (James 4:1-3)
3. Press on to do what is right
4. The only person we can change is ourselves

C. Be realistic

1. Don't put expectations on people that you couldn't even live up to
2. Remember that we are all different with different priorities
3. The only person we can change is ourselves

III. What can we expect from God? What can we hope for?

A. That we will have trouble (John 16:33)

B. That He provides a Savior. (video clip)

1. Jesus does not commit Himself to our plans (John 2:24-25)
2. Expect Him to guide and strengthen His people (James 1:2-8)

C. That He will respond to us (James 4:7-10)

D. That He will help us and knows that we will fail, but loves us.

IV. Other thoughts

- * Get to know people and then you will see what you can expect from them and why they do what they do.
- * We all have different ways of viewing the world so try to enjoy one another's differences.
- * We can all fail in meeting other people's expectations. Do your best, learn from your mistakes if you've made any, move on.
- * Don't fear failure. Be prudent in what you can expect from yourself, but don't let fear guide you.