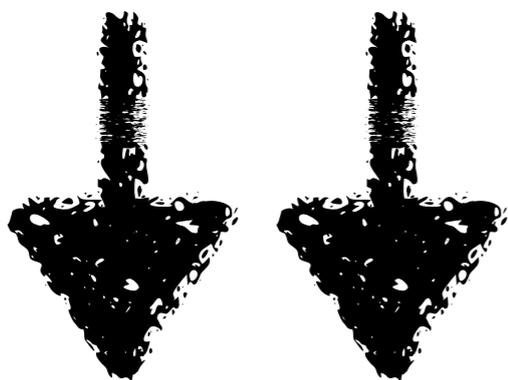


Rhythm of Surrender
& Trust
(DOWN)



Jesus cultivated a lifestyle of surrender and trust in his Father.

Jesus has invited us to stop trying to control our lives or the lives of others, and to let him lead us into freedom, joy, and healing. We recognize the temptation to grasp for control in a power-hungry society, but choose instead to embrace humble obedience to Jesus.

Because Jesus is Lord, we commit to surrendering to Him in all areas of life including our money, our sexuality, and our power, and to showing our city how money, sex, and power can be used in life-giving ways.

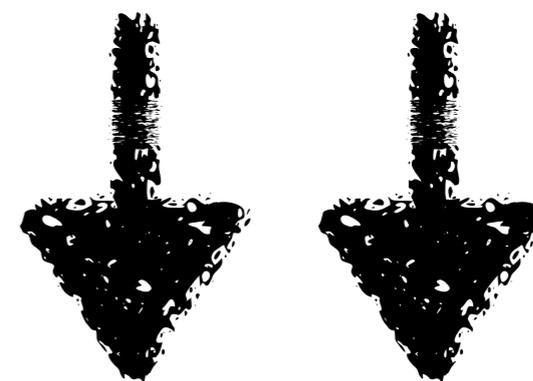
PRACTICES

Money. We manage our material resources in a manner that honors God (e.g. giving a percentage of our income to the mission and ministry of Rhythm, sharing with others who have needs, etc) and avoids the traps and enticements of Western culture (e.g. bad debt, conspicuous consumption, gambling, etc). We want our lifestyle to show that we serve God and not money.

Sex. We avoid both secular society's idolization of sex and traditional society's fear of sex. We pursue purity in our relationships and private life, and reserve sexual expression for the covenant relationship of marriage. We also exhibit love rather than hostility or fear toward those whose sexual life patterns are different from ours.

Power. We are committed to power sharing and to dissolving the divisions of race, culture, social class, and gender among us. We see people as ends in themselves, never as means to ends. We go about our daily life remembering we are in Miami not to be served but to serve.

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Suggested Ways to Try The Practices

Money

- Look at the “Truth and Lies About Money” document on Rhythm’s website. What strikes you from this list? What “truth” do you need to hold onto to counteract the “lie” that you are tempted to believe about money?
- Make a budget for yourself if you don’t already have one. Meet with a spiritual friend to share your budget and invite them to ask you questions about it. Here are a few sample questions if needed:
 - What did I learn while working on my budget?
 - Does this budget reflect kingdom values? (eg. simplicity, generosity, joy, wisdom)
 - How could this budget be altered to better reflect God’s love to the world?

Sex

- One of the biggest influences on our sexuality is our family of origin. Make a family genogram (template on Rhythm’s website) starting with your grandparents (both sides of your family). Next to each person’s name write down what their relational status was (single, married, divorced, widowed). Also write down anything you know about different family members understanding and practice of their own sexuality (celibacy, pornography addiction, adultery, homosexuality, etc.). Spend time with a trusted spiritual friend discussing what you learned and how it impacts your own sexuality.

Power

- Download the “Power Inventory” on Rhythm’s website. Work through the questions in each of the 5 categories. What strikes you from this exercise?
- Meditate on Philippians 2:5-11. How did Jesus use his power and authority? What might it look like for you to follow Jesus’ downward path in this season of life?

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