

Who We R

"For People"

I read this recently, *"And he who believes on Christ believes that His life is the best and noblest life that can be, and if a man believe not this, neither does he believe in Christ himself..."*

And this is the noblest and best life; for in him who has it God Himself dwells with all goodness. So how could there be a better life?" Theologia Germanica

Intro-Who we R

Who are we? **We are a family**

What are some family values we have?

a. We are welcoming.

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:1-7

b. Motivated by God's love

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Sunday, May 9, 2021

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:36-40

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:2

That's "Who we are." And a few values We are a family...

What do we exist? What's our purpose? **Four "fors"**

People know what we are against... But what are we *for*?

- 1. We are a family that exists *For People***
- 2. We are a family that exists *For People to find Jesus***
- 3. We are a family that exists *For People to follow Jesus***
- 4. We are a family that exists *For JESUS!***

"And this is the noblest and best life; for in him who has it God Himself dwells with all goodness. So how could there be a better life?" Theologia Germanica

We are a family that exists *For People to find and follow Jesus*

We are a family that exists *For People*

Read text, John 3:16-17

Church usually goes 1 of 2 ways. They really care for each other but neglect those outside the church, or they really care for those outside the church but neglect each other.

As Christians, we are called to both. It's not either/or it's both/and

For each other

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

It’s a part of being a family! What we invite others *into*

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10

For everyone

Why? Because **God so loved the world!**

We don’t do good to see people get saved, we do good because we are saved. It’s who we are!

God so loved the world, and so should we...

BUT WAIT! The bible clearly says we are to not love the world.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 1 John 2:15

For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 1 John 2:15-16

Hate the sin love the sinner? YES! Anything outside of this is short sided in that we too are sinners saved by grace!

Why do we “not love it”? Because it causes soul slavery. It’s not how we were created to live, and Jesus not only shows us, but provides a way out (Gospel).

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

And because God first loved us... We love God with ALL THAT WE ARE and love our neighbor.

But who is our neighbor? I’m glad you asked!

Sunday, May 9, 2021

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise." Luke 10:25-37

The one who showed him mercy!

We show mercy! This is what we do! We don't do it to see people get saved, we do it because we are saved! God saves, not us. Do we testify?

Yes!

We are a family that exists for people

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. "Purge the evil person from among you." 1 Corinthians 5:9-13

Sunday, May 9, 2021

So what about when God pronounces judgment? He does, but that's his job, not yours. We don't know who will come to the LORD, what our actions will do to lead people to the most honorable and best life, the life of Jesus.

Read John 3:17

Address the "brother" in scripture. Showing mercy in love.

Application

Let's change the concept of Christians being judgmental. How? By being welcoming, loving, & showing mercy.

Bait and switch? Let's do this because it's who we are!

Who are we?

- 1. We are a family that exists For People**
- 2. We are a family that exists For People to find Jesus**
- 3. We are a family that exists For People to follow Jesus**
- 4. We are a family that exists For JESUS!**

"And this is the noblest and best life; for in him who has it God Himself dwells with all goodness. So how could there be a better life?" Theologia Germanica

We are a family that exists For People to find and follow Jesus

COMMUNION

Blessing

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. Romans 15:5-7

Sunday, May 9, 2021