

Sermon Title: “Circle”

Series Title: Habits

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Speaker: Mike Barnhart



The Circle

1. We're not supposed to _____.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (ESV) - 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

“We” is better than “me”.

1. Someone Falls

Ecclesiastes 4:10 (ESV) - 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

2. Someone Gets Cold

Ecclesiastes 4:11 (ESV) - 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?

3. Someone Is Mugged

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (ESV) - 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

1. If you're really healthy...

...Do you realize the strength you could bring to a small group?

2. Maybe for you, things are going well now...

...But, you can't predict the future.

Don't travel alone.

We're not supposed to travel alone because we is better than me.

2. Take _____ to FOLLOW Jesus

Luke 6:40 (ESV) - 40 A disciple is not about his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be **like his teacher**.

The circle is where you encourage one another.

It's where you take steps to follow Jesus.

3. _____ are the Church

John 13:34 (ESV) - 34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

John 13:35 (ESV) - 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV) - 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

4. Love is _____.

“Just as surely as God desires to lead us to a knowledge of genuine Christian fellowship, so surely must be overwhelmed by a great disillusionment with others, with Christians in general, and, if we are fortunate, with ourselves.”

“The sooner the shock of disillusionment comes to an individual and to a community, the better for both.” –Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“There is no safe investment. To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken.” –C. S. Lewis

We love because Jesus loves us.

Ephesians 4:2 (ESV) - 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

What does it look like to be faithful when it's not fun?

Are you traveling alone?

If you're part of a circle and the purpose has disintegrated over time...

If you're in a small group and the group isn't really serious about taking steps to follow Jesus, ask the group to take a leap with you.

Increase the intensity about what's happening in your group.

Jesus says,

"Love one another as I have loved you."