

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, February 14, 2021

Message Summary

This week, Pastor John Carter talked about how the work of relationships require communication. For relationships to work, we must not only speak our truth, we must also hear the truth of others. We must seek understanding. If we don't seek to understand, if we don't seek to hear truth, we won't understand each other. A lack of understanding creates divides. But Jesus was sent into this world to deal with the inherent divide between God and man, to restore the relationship. Jesus came to the Earth as God's voice (John 1:14). And His message was one of unifying love. That those who would believe in Christ's sacrifice, they would be, through God's loving grace, restored to relationship with Him. And the His church would be the place where they could come together and be one under this message of healing, driving out the confusion and chaos caused by the world. The healing and calming effect of God's message of love embraces together all those who claim the lordship of Christ. But the way we demonstrate our love for Him is in how we interact and do relationship with others. Living in balance with others helps us to come into back alignment with them. Will we still have differences? Yes. Will we still find areas of contention? Yes. But as God's children, we can't polarize people. We have to fight to balance with people, so we can share Jesus with them. It's our responsibility to prioritize shared truths o ans to find points of connection so we can meet at the dock of understanding.

Pastor John Carter: *"To live in gentleness, we must live in balance. We must calm our waves of contention, and allow others to rest their boat against our dock. This is how we come together in truth and in love."*

Key Scriptures

- **[Philippians 4:4-5 NKJV]** 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your **gentleness** be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.
- **[James 3:13 NKJV]** 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

Discussion Questions

1. How would you define balance?
2. What does balance look like in our relationships with other people, especially those who don't think the way we do?
3. Why it is so important that we calm our "waves of contention" and allow people to "rest their boat against our dock?"
4. What does that calming process look like for you? What "waves" in your life exist, and how do you restore balance?

Life Application

As you study this week's key scriptures, remember Pastor said we have to fight to stay at the equator, to stay balanced. And we have to work to stay away from the polars of life. Becoming polarized, or too set in one position that alienates others, is dangerous. It keeps certain people at arms length and jeopardizes our capacity to share Jesus with them. This week, consider this. Love is an *active* effort. What effort do you need to make to walk in love and to walk in balance? How can you increase your **gentleness** with others who may be different from you? How can you share love with them? Now go and shine the love of Christ!