

“Relationships - Our Church Community” (7-31-22)

Outline of Service

- 1) Worship (Hawkins)
- 2) Communion (serving: Nick, Greg, Bart)
- 3) Announcements
- 4) Sermon - Baptism, Kids Ministry, Church Community - Life Groups/Giving/Serving

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (ESV)

(23) For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, (24) and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” (25) In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

1 Corinthians 11:26-28 (ESV)

(26) For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (27) Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. (28) Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

Announcements

- Hawkins B-Day!
- Game Night - 5th-8th this Friday (RSVP - \$5 pizza)
- Advance Sunday - next week

Sermon

Introduction: Water Baptism, Kids Ministry update, Living in Community (Life Groups, serving, giving)

1) Water Baptism - Identifying yourself with Christ's Family!

- a) **What it isn't:** It isn't what saves you (**Salvation Review**)

Romans 10:9-10 (ESV)

(9) Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Note: Salvation - produces assurance of eternity & a new life of Grace.

- A **moment** of acceptance, and a **lifetime** of following Jesus.
- We live by Faith, believing in Jesus as Savior, & walking with Him as my Lord.
- New life in Jesus isn't about Earning, but Enjoying!

- b) **What it is:** It is an outward sign of an inward change (It's a symbol)

Romans 6:4 (ESV)

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Note: Jesus – saves me from my old life (darkness, slave to sin, living in & leading to death)

Jesus – saves me into a new life (light, freedom in Christ-life in the Spirit, living eternally & abundantly)

So, why get baptized?

c) **Why we do it:** Obedience & Declaration (or testimony)

- **Obedience**

Jesus did it (Gospel accounts), His followers did it (Acts), and we are told to as well . . .

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

(19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

- **Declaration of a New Identity**

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (ESV)

(12) For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. (13) For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body

d) When we do it . . . (not as babies, but as understanding allows – it's a choice following salvation)

- What about Infant Baptisms? We Do Baby/Child Dedications - commitment by Parents & Church
- What's the condition of our small children's souls? They are good till the age of accountability

2) Kid's Ministry Update

- **Building a Youth Group:** 4-6th (last year) now growing to 5th-8th (middle school), eventually HS too
- **Expanding Elementary:** 3-4th quarterly activities & their own class coming soon, eventually k-2 / 3-5
- **Babies & Toddlers:** Soon moving from a shared room with dividers to 2 rooms (remain flexible to needs)

*We'll discuss serving later - but we need Teachers (people called to kids) & Support Volunteers (all of us!)

3) Living in Community - necessary, beneficial, sacrificial

Jesus is asked what is the greatest commandment, he goes a step further & says this is the whole law!

Matthew 22:37-40 (ESV)

(37) And (Jesus) said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and first commandment. (39) And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (40) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Notes: Loving God & Loving our neighbor are Jesus' commands, and they work together.

The importance of the assembly of saints is pictured in the letter to the Hebrews chapter 10 . . .

Hebrews 10:23-25 (ESV)

(23) Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. (24) And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Notes: Notice the words of action. . .

- **Hold fast** (to hope) – Holdfast: have and to hold (think marriage vows – He who promised is faithful)
- **Stir up** (love & works go together) – stir up: motion into, direction of, toward, or upon
- **Meet together & Encourage** one another (warned not to neglect this) . . .

Tony Evans quote (on the importance of living in community with the church family)

“I hear people say, ‘I don’t have to go to church to be a Christian,’ and they are absolutely right. Salvation is through faith alone in Christ alone. However, you don’t have to go home to be married, but stay away long enough and your relationship will be affected.”

- **Meet together:** not solitary or occasional, but customary
- **Encourage:** To aid, help, comfort, encourage, invite, exhort
- **All the More:** (so much more) the closer we get to The Day, we should purpose all the more to meet

a) Life Groups - sign up now, starting up in August (if you are in one your leader will reach out soon)

- **Safe Place** (so we don’t fix, interrupt, gossip, or give un-solicited advice)
- **Value People** (so our goal is to listen, love, & affirm each-other - in Christ)
- **Disciple People** (we are learning to apply the scripture to our lives - Follow, Change, Mission)
- **Plan for Growth:** Open Group – Open Chair – Open Growth (through branching out)
*Groups won’t stay a holy huddle of the same few people forever, expect growth & change

b) Serving - Church is not a business: shopping/service industry, it is a living community - all contribute

- **Kids area** (discipling our children, sharing the load, expanding as we grow)
- **Setup & Service** (greeting, check-in, hospitality, tech, etc.)
- **Servant Leadership** (LG leaders, Worship, Teaching, Prayer Team, Deacons, Elders)

c) Giving - **All are called to give** (tithe 10% - only argument against it in NT is they shared everything!)

- **The needs of the church** - supporting staff & ministry & saving for building
- **The needs of our community & beyond** - we give to the school, local ministries, & foreign missions
- **Practice Consistent Tithing** - It’s an act of worship! Don’t wait till you think there is a need, commit to consistent tithing / then, be open to giving above & beyond as the Lord directs

Conclusion: Prayer for our Church Community