

January 23rd, 2022

One Another

Matthew 16:21-26 NLT; Romans 12:1 NIV

1. What's one thing from last weekend's sermon that you hope we talk about as a group?

2. This Sunday, Pastor Terry spoke on the question, "What if there is something better?" and how often our actions and choices come out of that thought. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

3. In this series, "One Another", we continue to reflect on this idea that we do not belong to self but only to God. When we are able to deny self, we can begin to understand the freedom and truth that we truly only do belong to God and not to ourselves. In these examples below, reflect on how they are often handled when we put ourselves first and then how they can be handled when we are able to put others first. Explain.

a. Someone cuts us off in traffic.

b. Made aware of a new policy at work that isn't fair but won't interfere or disrupt with your work.

c. You are asked to give up something that you don't agree with.

d. Controversial decision made in the public schools, but your kids don't attend there.

e. Accepted into a prestigious school or a promotion that comes with a large pay increase at work, but it will move you away from your friends, family, and church.

5. **Digging Deeper**: Pastor Terry spoke on how freedom, even freedom in Christ still comes with a cost, with sacrifice. What cost or sacrifice is something that you know you would struggle with? What line is there for you that might lead you to say, “That is too much for me to give up?” Explain.

a. Share with the group why “self-denial” is so difficult. Does this kind of freedom and sacrifice fit into your faith journey? Why or why not?

b. What would be some healthy practices or spiritual habits that might allow for you to learn how to deny “self” more often?

c. Is there anything you need to do as a result of what you’ve learned this week?

Closing in prayer: Close in a time of prayer this week. Ask the group if there are any specific things that they can pray over together that may help us as church to be able to give more of ourselves to others and to Jesus. We also want to be praying for others to come to know Jesus as we continue to give up of “self” and to know that we have freedom when fully belong only to God.