

UNITED WE STAND Part 5: Irresistible

Objective: To challenge us to focus on Jesus and imitate him with our lives

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 12:1-2

- The pastor said that, over the past 50 years or so, the American church has become increasingly resistible. The numbers support this. Why do you think the church in America has become more and more irrelevant or irresistible?
- Based on the people you know who are not connected to any church, why do you think they have chosen to stay away?
- "What you stare at determines what you gravitate toward. Our division is proof that we're not all staring - and thus not moving - in the same direction." [Andy Stanley in Not In It to Win It] If the church is divided because we are not focused same thing, what are the things you think we are focused on?
- If being focused on and united in Jesus will bring unity and make us irresistible, why don't we focus on Jesus and imitate him? What does it mean to you to focus on Jesus? What would imitating him look like in our church? In your own life?
- What do you think about the idea of addressing sinful hearts rather than broken systems? Why do you feel that way?

Consider this week:

- What do you need to change so that you can focus on Jesus? Are their distractions you should eliminate? Are there habits or disciplines you can begin?

Final Thought: When you think of your life, how focused on Jesus are you really? Have you fixed your eyes on him and are you initiating him with your life?

