## This is Us: Becoming Christlike

Pastor Todd Keller January 28, 2024

## **Opening Discussion**

 What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

## **College Church's Mission**

To Lead every generation into a growing relationship with Jesus so that all may experience God's goodness and grace.

## Core Value #1:

We are a blended family: We are a diverse family with unique backgrounds and stories that God has brought together. We want everyone to experience the belonging that comes with being a part of the family of God.

## Core Value #2

**We Cultivate Christlikeness:** We choose to surrender our lives to be continually shaped by Christ so that we might become more and more like Him. We believe He first changes our hearts, which then changes our behavior.

### Core Value #3

**We Give and We Go:** We give and go in sacrificial ways to impact our community and world. We are generous because God has been generous with us.

# Thought #1: We give and go in sacrificial ways

## 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

"...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

What thoughts or emotions come to mind when reflecting on the idea of sacrificial giving? How is the word "sacrifice" viewed in today's culture? In what ways does the cultural view shape your thoughts toward this? How do you see this core value in contrast to the world's viewpoint?

How does the Bible emphasize the importance of sacrificial giving, both in terms of time and resources? Review some of these passages:

Proverbs 11:34-35 Hebrews 3:16 Acts 20:35 Luke 6:38 1 John 3:17

What common themes stand out from these passages? How do these passages challenge you?

Pastor Todd used the phrase "All the dollars belong to God." In what ways does the understanding that everything belongs to God impact your perspective on giving your time and resources sacrificially? How can we practically live out the truth that we are stewards of God's possessions?

# Thought #2: We give to impact our community and world

### **Acts 1:8**

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

## Matthew 28:16-20

"Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age"

How does the Bible emphasize the responsibility of believers to impact their community and world for Christ? Reflect on how Jesus Christ modeled sacrificial giving for the redemption of humanity. In what ways can

we emulate His sacrificial love in our efforts to impact the community and world for Christ?

Share examples of how you have seen sacrificial giving lead to transformational impact in communities. How can we measure success not only in terms of material change but also in the transformation of lives for Christ?

Share personal testimonies or stories of individuals whose lives you've witnessed being impacted for Christ through sacrificial giving (this might be YOU!). How do these stories inspire and encourage us to continue in our commitment to making a difference?

# Thought #3: We are generous because God has been generous with us.

#### 2 Corinthians 9:8

"God is able to graciously provide you with everything so that you will always have all you need—with plenty to help others too." How do you personally understand the generosity of God in your life? In what ways has God's generosity been evident, and how does it inspire your generosity?

Explore these biblical passages that highlight God's generosity.

1 Timothy 6:17 James 1:17 Psalm 36:5-8 2 Peter 3:9 Psalm 89:5

How does the Bible shape our understanding of God's character as a generous giver, and how should this influence our approach to sacrificial giving? Reflect on the connection between experiencing God's generosity and our motivation to be generous. How can personal encounters with God's generosity fuel sacrificial giving in our own lives?

Generosity is not limited to financial giving. How can we extend generosity in our relationships, time, and talents as a response to God's generosity in our lives? Discuss how our generosity can serve as a powerful witness for Christ. In what ways can sacrificial giving become a tool for evangelism, showcasing the transformative power of God's love?

Questions for Pastor Todd Keller or Julie Burch regarding your REMIX group?

• Email: Todd <u>tkeller@collegechurch.com</u> Julie <u>groups@collegechurch.com</u>

\*\*\*Remember to record your attendance for the week. Thank you.

How can we pray for each other this

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