



FRESH START: Opportunity to Come Together

MAIN SCRIPTURE

There wasn't one! ☺ Various verses are included under each major thought this week.

WARM UP

- What stood out to you from the message? (story, thought, Scripture, etc.)
- Pastor Kevin talked about getting pulled into something that is bigger than us. He introduced the message by talking about so many good things that have happened in the past three months that could unite us:
 - 2 new pastors, 7 people beginning a relationship with Jesus, 3 baptisms, 4 new life groups, 105 teens on retreat, 60 college students on "move in" weekend, new people coming, others returning, and a general rising tide of "hopefulness".
 - What are you seeing that is worth celebrating these past 3 months?

Thought #1 – Our future hinges on us coming together as one!

Verses: Galatians 3:28, Romans 12:4-5, Psalm 131:1

- What in these verses stands out to you as we talk about "unity"?
- Pastor Kevin said that, "Our future hinges on us becoming one."
 - Where do you see opportunities for us as College Church to become "one"?

- The truth about College Church is that we have diversity among us: generationally, culturally, in our discipleship programs (Adult Bible Study Fellowship/Life Groups), and in our worship gatherings.
 - Do you see this diversity as a challenge? An opportunity? Both?
 - What have your other experiences with church been like? Have those communities included similar aspects of diversity? Other aspects?

Thought # 2 – Diversity points to a creative God.

Verses: Ephesians 2:10, Psalm 139:14, 1 Corinthians 12:17-18

- The diversity among us points to the creativity of our God. Pastor Kevin specifically highlighted the phrase "wonderfully complex". Pastor Kevin spoke about how different he and Rachel are from one another and how they compliment each other.
 - Can you name a relationship in your life where you have seen how another person (very different from you) compliments you? And makes you better?
- Pastor Kevin said that we have everything we need in the church to accomplish the mission. We are all unique and God wants to leverage our uniqueness to build his kingdom.
 - What uniqueness do you feel like you bring to the church?
 - Are you using your unique gifting for God?

Thought #3 – We can be different but still be unified.

Verses: Philippians 1:27, 1:30

- Pastor Kevin said, “We are at our best when we are diverse, but still unified.”
 - Why do you think that is true for us a church?
- Kevin invited us into the “struggle” of fighting for diversity. In fact, he said, we must figure out what is worth fighting for. And unity is one of those things.
 - Have you experienced the “struggle” of staying unified in the church? How did you persevere through?
 - What does it look like to fight for unity? (fighting together instead of against each other)
- In the message, Pastor Kevin said that anytime our identity as sons/daughters of Christ becomes secondary we are in trouble. Our identity to Christ should always be primary – regardless of our preferences, titles, social standing, etc.
 - How do we keep our relationship with Jesus as our primary identifier?
 - Are there some specific spiritual practices/disciplines (prayer, bible reading, silence, etc.) that you do daily that help remind you of your primary identity?
 - Is there a group of people that help remind you of your primary identity?

Challenge – Many of us are a part of the church because of the efforts of others. Others who used their gifts to build up the church – and we were blessed because of them. This week – send a message thanking them for their influence on our life.

Questions? Email me at:

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