

Good morning church family. Welcome to our two week sermon series:

Cross Talk : Congregation Conversations

Each location, each service is going to feature different folks from our congregation in conversation with our pastors on topics of discipleship and biblical application. It's one thing for us to just give you information, it's another to discuss it together and seek to further apply it. We will also have time at the end of each message for you to ask questions for discussion as well.

Today's Question

What Can The Church Do Better?

It's easier to ask this of a broad faceless title, but let's start with ourselves as individuals. The church is a collection of individuals and the actions and faithfulness of each individual affects the whole.

Acts 2:42-47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Question #1: What are you doing to make the church better? What can you do personally to make the church better?

Colossians 3:12-17

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Question #2 What can our local church body do to make the church better?

(Also vision + core value discussion)

2 Timothy 4:2-5

2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. 5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Question #3 What can THE CHURCH as a whole do better?

(What do you think gets in the way of the Church Doing Better)

As we close we want to take a moment to address Church hurt because we realize it is real and it has caused a few of us to pull away from the church and remain at a distance.

If you are someone who is struggling with this hurt and it has caused you to become distant we want to encourage you to press in and really allow Jesus to heal that hurt so that you can once again participate in church life as God has intended. God very much wants to use your gifting to be a blessing within the body of Christ and to help us fulfill the Great Commission Jesus gave us.