



Week 2- "A Better Way"

Right in the middle of our world is a person we call "me." Who we are, how we relate to others, and how we define ourselves impacts everything we do. In this week's message we look at how Christianity invites us to define ourselves differently.

1. How would you describe your unique wiring and giftings? In other words, what makes you "YOU?"
2. In what ways have these things defined you? Is it hard to imagine anything else defining you?
3. How has culture influenced who you are and how you see yourself?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 28-31

4. Discuss the point Paul was making, that if we allow our giftings, strengths, and strivings to define us, it will be hollow and empty.
5. Have you felt empty from striving to prove that you are good enough, or felt drained from doing something in order to look like a "good" person?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

6. In what ways do you expect others to do things the way you do them?
7. How often in your daily life do you directly or indirectly demand your own way over someone else's?

8. Paul clearly shows that understanding ourselves is important, but that shouldn't be what defines us. Love should define us. What do you think it looks like to be defined by love?

9. What are your thoughts when you look at how Paul describes love? Do you feel like you have what it takes to love this way?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

10. Christianity teaches that the only way we can love like this is through trusting Christ. Discuss this. Does this truth help you trust that you can be defined by love when you surrender to Him?

As you continue to examine "me, myself, and why?" Here are two questions you can ask yourself:

- 1. Do I use my wiring or my personality as an excuse not to love others?**
- 2. Do I rely more on ME or on Christ to be who He has called me to be?**

When we can acknowledge that in and of ourselves we can't live up to the standard of love that Christ calls us to and surrender to Him, then we can find the best version of ourselves and truly love others.