

Sunday 3-22-26

So good morning, Laury and I thought we would do things a little different today, next week we are having a party, and it will be a little busy, so we want to take this opportunity to share some things from our heart, maybe a few things we have learned over 44 years of ministry...

We are told that you should never tell people that they HAVE to do this or that, but we have

1. Stay in church.

Church is a community of people with an assignment, people that gather, they serve each other and serve their community, they use their gifts, they honor each other,

Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. ¹¹ Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.

¹² Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. ¹³ When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! Romans 12:10-16

We are a product of the consistency of our parents, if you have benefited in any way from our ministry, you owe our parents and the pastors who led us. They were not perfect, and we are not going to tell you how imperfect they were, but they taught us to stay in church and stay in the word!

You will never get all your needs met in this church, that is impossible. Tim and Maddie will never be all you need, that is why we have the Holy Spirit and the Word...

2. Forgiveness.

I believe the church is designed to be a petri dish of offense! You will get offended, by Jesus, the word and His church, and you will be an offense to the ones around you. Get over it!!!

Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ¹⁵ Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

You will get offended at others and at your pastor, at times we were offended by each other, by people in the church, at Foursquare, but we chose not to let offense settle in our hearts... was that easy? No! we have pride, we thought we should be treated better, but hey, they crucified Jesus, what makes you think you are going to be treated any differently, that by the way is a quote from Cliff Hanes, our first district supervisor who told us that when we were wanting to quit.

If you have received anything from our ministry, you owe Cliff and Mary thanks!

3. Serve and give.

Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.

We are all called to serve, God places us in a body not to see how that body will serve me and my family, but to serve the body. We are all commanded to give, of our time, talents, gifts and resources, yes your money...

The bible says that where your treasure is there is where your heart is.

Tim and Maddie are going to be our new pastors, we are choosing them as our pastors, to lead us, to encourage us, to teach us; it could be said that we know more than them, we have more knowledge of the word and the church and life. Of course we do, we have 40 years on them, but that is not the point, they are called by God to pastor this church.

We will operate in the gifting God has given us, we will stay in our lane, we will serve them and this church because this is where God has called us, this is

the community God has placed us in, this is where our energy, talents and resources will go...

Will they make mistakes? Of course. Will they do some crazy things? Of course, our job is not to criticize or correct them at every turn, it is to love them, pray for them, defend them and yes, occasionally to ask the right questions...

***“Do not touch my chosen people,
and do not hurt my prophets.” Psalms 105:15***

4. Be teachable.

Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!

The bible tells us repeatedly to not live in pride, do not think you know it all, that no one can teach you anything, but to be humble, pliable...

Humility is an intentional choice, you have to choose to be humble and to be teachable, you have to be humble... being teachable is not just an event, it is a life long attitude of the heart...

The Holy Spirit is called the great teacher, and if we do not have a teachable heart, we won't hear the Holy Spirit! Remember, He is going to speak to you through His word and His people...

Unfortunately, we have run into people who tried to tell us how full of the Spirit they were, but they were proud and unteachable--- so we knew they were not full of the Spirit, or hearing the Holy Spirit!

We noticed something, every time we had a marriage event, the only people who came were the ones whose marriages were in good condition, financial seminars, the ones who had their finances in order...