

Our House: "We - Who ARE WE?"**Opening Announcements****Opening Prayer**

Q: In our Ministry Clarity Event on 2/13, we had this question:
"What Makes Alive In Christ ALIVE for you?" Discuss/share....

Q: Why is being who WE are important to God's Mission for us?

Table Time: at your table, work through the following....

READ: Matthew 6:9 "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

Q: What strikes you about first line of this prayer?

Q: What are the implications of that for you, your life and US together?

READ: Matthew 23:37-39 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸ See, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Q: What's interesting about this passage? What's sad?

Q: What does this passage tell you about God's DESIRE?

Q: What does this passage tell you about "us"?

READ: Ephesians 4:1-7 "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Q: According to this text, what are the characteristics of the "manner worthy of your calling"?

Q: According to this text, what is a MAIN characteristic of the body of Christ?

Q: What might be some barriers, threats, or challenges to "oneness"?

Q: Why is "unity" powerful and such a great witness?

Big Group Debrief:

READ: 1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

Q: What does THIS verse say "we are"?

Q: What does THIS mean?

Q: What ultimately is OUR purpose, both corporately and individually?

Q: How do we "proclaim the excellencies of Him"?

READ: 1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace"

Q: What does this say about YOU?

Q: Do you know what your gift(s) is(are)?

Q: What does "God's varied grace" mean?

READ: John 13:35 "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Q: What is THE characteristic of God's people?

Q: Why is LOVE such a powerful witness?

HOMEWORK: Consider Lamentations as a Bible Reading plan for Lent. Consider attending Wednesday evening Lent services.