



Sermon Text: 1 Pt 2 & Eph 4:11-16

Sermon Date: June 11, 2017

On Sunday, we began a new sermon series called “All In.” As a church, we must be “all in” in two important ways. First, we must ALL be IN. Everyone engaged and active. Second, all of us must be ALL IN. We must each be fully committed.

OUR MISSION – TO MAKE DISCIPLES EVERYWHERE BY EXALTING CHRIST IN EVERYTHING

The reason we must be “all in” is because our mission demands it. We have been commanded by our King to make disciples everywhere by exalting Christ in everything. Everywhere we go and in everything we do, we make disciples by exalting Christ as our greatest treasure, clinging to him in our deepest pain, obeying him in our daily lives, and proclaiming him to every person. This mission is universal in scope, eternal in consequence, and of unfathomable importance; therefore, we must be all in.

EVERY MEMBER IS A MINISTER

To demonstrate that every member is a minister, we examined 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9. In the Old Testament, the priesthood consisted of merely a fraction of a fraction of the people—one family from only one of the twelve tribes. And even then, only one priest was allowed to enter God’s presence and only once a year. So when Peter declares that Christians are “*a holy priesthood*” who “*offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*” he is announcing an awesome privilege. We each have access to God in Christ and we each represent Him to a watching world. Every member is a minister so that “*you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*”

EVERY MEMBER IS CALLED TO ESSENTIAL MINISTRY

In Ephesians 4, we saw that every member is called to essential ministry. Members aren’t tasked with spiritual busy-work. They aren’t supposed merely to keep the sterile bureaucracy of the church running. They aren’t simply spectators who watch or generous supporters who give. They are called to do the essential work of ministry.

In Ephesians 4, we noticed two points:

1. **Leaders are called to serve the saints by equipping them for ministry.** While every member is a minister, Ephesians 4 shows us that this truth doesn’t dissolve Scripture’s teaching concerning the distinct responsibility church leaders have within the church. Ephesians shows us that leaders are uniquely called to teach God’s Word, train in sound doctrine, and in so doing “equip the saints for the work of ministry.”
2. **The saints are called to build up the church by doing the work of ministry.** Having been equipped by the leaders, the saints do the work. And the work is real gospel ministry, not fluff. The saints build up the body (12), so that the church can grow into maturity (13) and discernment (14). The saints speak the truth to one another in love (15). And only when the saints are working properly does the whole body build itself up in love (16).

Clinton Arnold says, “The body of Christ is not a place to sit and soak, but to serve. It is important to help believers realize that they have been called to full-time Christian ministry. Giftings may be different, roles may vary, but being a Christian means being a minister.” YOU are called to full-time Christian ministry. You are called by the King to make disciples everywhere you are—at your job, around the dinner table, across the fence—by exalting Christ in everything. All of our lives, every insignificant detail, is infused with eternal significance when we do them on mission, as ministers of our Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?
2. Why is it important to keep our mission front and center in our lives and our church?
3. How does it make you feel to know that you are called to full-time Christian ministry no matter what your job is?
4. How can you live on mission to make disciples in your daily life?