

# Life Together: Better, Safer, Stronger

November 19, 2017

Wonderful Mercy Church



# Doing Life Together

- We are better together than we are alone
- We're also safer together. Safer in this way specifically: in receiving and responding to correction



# Telling the Truth

- “Will you tell me my fault, frankly as to yourself, for I had rather wince, than die. Men do not call the surgeon to commend the Bone, but to set it, Sir.” [—Emily Dickinson, seeking an honest appraisal of her poetry from a respected author]



# Proverbs 15:31-32 TPT

“Accepting constructive criticism opens your heart to the path of life, making you right at home among the wise. <sup>32</sup> Refusing constructive criticism shows you have no interest in improving your life, for revelation-insight only comes as you accept correction and the wisdom that it brings.”



# Sam's Experience



# Safety in Community

- There's safety in other voices speaking into our lives (provided these voices belong to people who are themselves safe)
- See Acts 15:1-21
  - “This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them...” (Acts 15:2)
  - Disagreement and debate do not mean church split and disunity—here the result is a better, safer, stronger life together



# Safety in Community

- See Galatians 2:11-16
- See Acts 15:36-40
  - From Greek word translated here *disagreement* comes our English word *paroxysm*: “a sudden outburst of emotion or action”
  - This was not a mild difference of opinion but an intense and passionate conflict
  - But even that God can turn to good



# Better, Safer, Stronger

- “I want to thank you for your honesty and transparency in rebuking me. ...I want to frankly request that you will feel free to rebuke and correct me whenever you see that I need it. I account that as a great blessing. It does not feel painful to me in any way because I experience it as a significant gift of your pastoral love and oversight. Thank you. And keep it up! I’m sure I’ll need it plenty of times!!” [email to Pastor Graeme, early October 2017]





# Safety in Community

- The safest and strongest way into the best life Father has for us is together. It's not the most comfortable way, but the goal is not our comfort. It is the health and wholeness of our soul; it is the capacity to live in our true identity as sons and daughters, without masks or pretense
- It's not only safer in community, it's safer for the community when we do life together because sometimes it keeps us from going off the rails





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Church Worldviews

## Megachurch Introduces New Jesus-Free Salvation Package

November 13, 2017



# Jesus won't save you – President Xi Jinping will, Chinese Christians told

By **Simon Denyer** November 14 at 6:59 AM 



# Safety in Community

- What keeps us from going the same route at WMC? Being in this together, being a safe place to receive and respond to correction
- This is not only safest for us, but for others who encounter us



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