

Being Known

12 November 2017; David Hammerslag

Wonderful Mercy Church



Doing Life Together

- Being a part of the faith community at Wonderful Mercy Church must be more than a Sunday thing
- The call to do life together is a reflection of the godhead itself: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—all together, always in relationship
- Made in the image of God, we have neither the capacity nor freedom to go it alone
- Isaiah 40. What it means to be “The Way”
 - Laying down our claims, our desires, our rights.
 - The necessity of being part of the church to be on “The Way”



Community: Being Known

- A hallmark of community: a place where you are known.
“You wanna be where everybody knows your name”
- I’ve been a part of this community for something like 15 years.
- Do you really know me?
- How many people here do you know? How many know you?
- Being part of a community where you know people and where you are known will be an important part of how we will do life together; how we make church more than just a Sunday thing.



Being Known

- We long for honest, authentic, meaningful connections - being known



We need connection

“While connection may not be our top need for immediate physical survival, our Creator has formed us in such a way that there is nothing more crucial to our long-term welfare. In fact, virtually every action we humans take is part of the deeper attempt to connect with other humans. Even when it terrifies us. Even when we suspect at some inscrutable, preverbal place in our minds that we will be betrayed. Even when we have spent years perfecting our deftness at avoiding connection or carefully protecting ourselves from all but the most controlled forms of it. We find ourselves drawn to it, despite our occasional repulsion by it—especially in relation to particular people.”

[Anatomy of the Soul: Surprising Connections between Neuroscience and Spiritual Practices That Can Transform Your Life and Relationships; Curt Thompson M.D., p 109]



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- We long to be known yet we fear it.
- When we risk being known remarkable things can happen.



The Fruit of Being Known

Being
Known

Being
Known
by God

Loving
Others

Knowing
Myself

Knowing
God



Knowing Ourselves

- If you do not know yourself you are at risk of losing yourself
- You may think you know yourself....
- The nature of human relationships is that if I am going to allow you in, I am going to have to go in with you.



Being Known by God/Knowing God

- “How can you draw close to God when you are far from your own self?” Augustine, 500 AD
- “Our wisdom . . . consists almost entirely of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. But as these are connected together by many ties, it is not easy to determine which of the two precedes and gives birth to the other.” John Calvin, 1530
- Paradox: Omniscient God requires us to bring our true selves to him
- When we bring our real selves we experience him knowing us
- In being known we can be healed. The Lord only heals what we bring to him. Jesus can't fix fake.



We Are Commanded to Love

- “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” John 13:34 (ESV)
- “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” John 15:12 (ESV)
- Can you love me without knowing me?
- Can you love without knowing and reflecting Father’s love?



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