

A Different Way

October 22, 2017

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 together
- Made in the image of God, we have neither the capacity nor freedom to go it alone



The Early Church

- **Acts 2:42b** PASSION TRANSLATION
“Their hearts were mutually linked to one another...”
- **John 4:32a** PASSION TRANSLATION
“All the believers were one in mind and heart...”
- Luke gives no attention to the idea of a “personal relationship with Christ”
- A decision to follow Jesus is designed to lead us into community



What Kind of Community?

- Early on believers referred to selves as “The Way” (see Acts 9:2, 19:9, 19:23, 22:4, 24:14, 24:22)
- The Greeks used the word, *HODÓS*, to speak about the path of life or the manner of life, and as an enquiry into the deep questions of life
- Isaiah 40:1-5



What Kind of Community? Insights from Isaiah 40

“Comfort, comfort My people,” says your God. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.” (v.1-2a)

- We speak and give comfort to those who are beaten down and have been pushed to the margins
- How we are to do it: by speaking tenderly



What Kind of Community? Insights from Isaiah 40

“Announce to her that her time of forced labor is over, her iniquity has been pardoned, and she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. (v. 2)

- We declare Good News
- Forgiveness is our word to the world



What Kind of Community? Insights from Isaiah 40

“A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert.” (v. 3)

- We lead the way to the heart of the Father



What Kind of Community? Insights from Isaiah 40

“Every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain and hill will be leveled; the uneven ground will become smooth and the rough places, a plain.” (v. 4)

L O S T L E A S T

L O N E L Y



What Kind of Community? Insights from Isaiah 40

“And the glory of the LORD will appear, and all humanity together will see it, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”
(v. 5)



The Different Way Is No Easy Way

- It isn't going to be easy. And *we cannot do it alone.*
- The original snare in the Garden of Eden is before us: the conviction that we can do it ourselves, our own way, an alone way, without others or God



The Different Way Is No Easy Way

“Many of us functionally doubt our need for the church. Pursuing the way of Christ seems like a ‘me and Jesus’ kind of endeavor. But our focus on ourselves unearths a deep foolishness that owes more to our culture and worldliness than it does to Scripture. We have no hope of pursuing the way of Christ apart from the Church.”

[Jamin Goggin and Kyle Strobel, *The Way of the Dragon or the Way of the Lamb: Searching for Jesus’ Path of Power in a Church that Has Abandoned It* (Harper Collins: ©2017), p. 14.]



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