

THAT THEY MAY BE ONE: COURAGEOUS COUNTER-CULTURE

Sunday message from June 26, 2022

~ Notes & Reflections ~

We value intentional, sacrificial, faith-filled actions that achieve our purpose of embodying God's love to every neighbor.

- **A culture war occurs between two groups that hold two different views of the world.**
 - ❖ How do you see culture wars in our current society? How does the world engage? How does the church engage? What similarities and differences do you see? How do the “warfare practices” of the church align (or not align) with the way of Jesus?

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13.35)

- **Practicing the way of Jesus is to serve and love, not fight and win. We are to live a drastically different way of life that demonstrates hope, deeply loving and caring for one another. This is way more difficult and takes way more courage than fighting against the world.**
 - ❖ In what ways do you see the church (and yourself) engaging the world as a system to be conquered by power? In what ways do you see the church (and yourself) living in the world with compassionate, winsome engagement? What might need to change in the way you engage with the world?
- **The early church practiced courageous counter-culture, as shown in Acts 2.42-47.**
 - ❖ Read Acts 2.42-47. In what ways (actions, values, etc) do you see the church being counter-cultural? How does their way of life align with the way of Jesus? What effect did their way of life have on the culture/world around them? How might God be inviting you to step into these actions/values?
- **The way of Jesus is to cut through a culture war with courageous love.**
 - ❖ What might this look like? (see Matthew 5.43-44)

**“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
(Mark 10.45, Matt 20.28)**

- **In order for us to influence people's hearts (especially those of the next generation), then we have to change our posture—the way we relate to people. Our posture needs to change into that which Jesus took toward you and me.**
 - ❖ What might this new “posture” look like? What is Jesus' posture toward you? Ask Jesus this question or a similar one like, “How do you see me?” Spend a few moments in silence, listening to His response. How does Jesus' posture toward you impact the way you relate to others?
- ❖ How do you see our value of Courage intersecting with our mission of Engaging with God, Journeying Together and Spreading Hope? How do you see it intersecting with our other values of Trust, Humility, Grace, Family and Community?