

## THAT THEY MAY BE ONE: COMMUNITY

Sunday message from June 19, 2022

~ Notes & Reflections ~

**We value the community where we are called to live and seek to build partnerships that spread hope locally and throughout the world.**

- **“Valuing the community where we are called to live” requires two foundational beliefs: 1) God is purposefully writing your story; 2) Your story fits into God’s bigger Kingdom Story of redemption.**
- **God is purposefully writing your story. He created you—specifically and uniquely, with love and purpose (Psalm 139.13-17, Ephesians 2.10)—and sovereignly placed you here in this season.**
  - ❖ What does this look like for you? In what ways do you see this clearly? In what aspects of life is it hard to believe? Spend some time sitting before God with these questions alongside Psalm 139.13-17 and Ephesians 2.10.
- **Your story fits into God’s bigger Kingdom Story of redemption. God’s redemptive purpose includes transforming you through His indwelling Spirit and drawing people into relationship with Himself.**
  - ❖ How do you see God’s bigger Kingdom Story in Scripture? In John 17? In 1 Peter 2?
  - ❖ What are some ways in which God might be weaving your story into His Kingdom Story?
- **We can live out “value the community” through three actions: 1) actively seek shalom, 2) do transformational good, 3) build partnerships.**
- **God’s command in Jeremiah 29. 4-7, “seek the welfare of the city”, which was actually a command to “tread a path” of “holistic peace” (shalom), to be a part of God’s restorative and redemptive purpose now, right where they were.**
  - ❖ How do you hear this command? What thought and feelings bubble up? What might it look like to seek shalom in your daily life? To combat the negativity, anxiety and hurry in our community’s current culture? (see Isaiah 61.1-4, Gal 5.22-23)
- **1 Peter 2.11-20 challenges us to do transformational good, to live an obviously honorable daily life from the inside out, to be free of cultural rules by choosing to be in connection with Jesus.**
  - ❖ Read 1 Peter 2.11-20 slowly. What stands out to you? How might God be challenging you—in perspective, in action? What might God be inviting you into?
- **To “build partnerships”, we should ask the question, “Who else is seeking shalom for our community and/or doing transformational good?”**
- **Internalizing and living out our value of community is HARD! But, we were never meant to do it on our own. Jesus invites each of us into apprenticeship with Him (1 Peter 2.21-25), into a new family of fellow apprentices and into the sure hope of future fulfillment of redemption and shalom.**
  - ❖ How do you see our value of Community 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 Courage?