

SUMMIT SERIES: JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Sunday message from October 2nd, 2022

~ Notes & Reflections ~

- **Our mission: As Union Center Christian Church, we are practicing the way of Jesus by engaging with God, journeying together and spreading hope.**
 - ❖ Summit 3 will be discussing how we live out our “three initiatives” as a church.
- **One of the major facets of the Christian journey is discovering how God writes our individual stories into a collective unity with others.**
 - ❖ We are all uniquely created, but are a part of the collective body of Christians everywhere. We are rescued into the family of God.
 - ❖ Read [1 Peter 2.9-10](#) slowly. What word or phrase stands out to you? What might God be speaking to you? What does this passage say about your story? What does it say about your story in relation to others’ stories?
- **Jesus unites us with all of our unique, God-given differences into His family.**
 - ❖ Unity not uniformity. Unique, but part of something greater. What is a unique way that God has created/gifted you? How might this affect your role and interactions in the family of God?
 - ❖ Read [Romans 12.3-8](#) slowly. What stands out to you (as important, fresh, personally relevant, etc.)?
- **Journeying together is what we are called to do, but it is not easy.**
 - ❖ How does God’s plan of “loving unity” in His family compare with your experience of church?
 - ❖ How do you long for church to be? How might that compare with the Scripture passages above?
- **God is writing our stories together.**
 - ❖ Read [Romans 16.1-16](#). Consider the people listed—their names, stories, diversity.
 - ❖ How does this list of diverse people impact your ideas of unity in the church and journeying together?
 - ❖ The way Jesus and Paul empowered women created a beautiful, holistic, female-and-male-based culture. What other ways do you see God writing the story of the church in counter-cultural ways in this passage?
- **Jesus is re-writing the story into which you were born.**
 - ❖ Paul mentions 12 women in leadership. Tryphena and Tryphosa were born into luxury. Aristobulus was the grandson of Herod the Great (see [Matthew 2.1-18](#)). Herodian, a Jew, pledged his allegiance to Rome. Rufus, a North African, was the son of Simon who carried Jesus’ cross ([Mark 15.21](#)) and many more. Jesus re-wrote their stories.
 - ❖ What story were you born into? How do you see Jesus re-writing your story?
 - ❖ How does seeing how Jesus re-wrote these stories encourage you? Challenge you?
- **Jesus wants to re-write your story.**
 - ❖ How might Jesus desire to continue re-writing your story? How might God desire to use your story to transform and knit people together in love?
 - ❖ We need to sit and hear each other’s stories. We need to create practices in our lives where love can flourish among us, that foster a culture of love. What might God be inviting you to step into?
- What statements or aspects of this message bring comfort? Which bring conviction? Take some time to talk to God about what bubbles up as you read/hear and reflect on this message.
- What might God be inviting you into as a response to this message/reflection on journeying together?