

Life Group Notes

Pray that God might help us understand the text, and apply it to our lives, and teach us anything else God might wish.

Sermon Summary Statement:

Through the cross and Jesus' ongoing abiding and sanctification, as we abide and join and others with him, the church is built together in unity to be made holy as Christ's bride, to be one with him at the wedding supper of the Lamb, the culmination of salvation history.

Study:

- 1) Is there anything that stood out to anyone, or that you found helpful or new in the sermon or in the passage?
- 2) Do you remember the 5 metaphors for the church drawn upon in the sermon? Or the 5 B's?¹

Split:

Split into pairs, or triplets as necessary, and have each micro-group select one of the following passages and/or topics (you don't have to get them all, and if you want/have extra time you can do multiple each, and/or double-up). Later you can rejoin and share your discussions.

The Body of Christ (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12:12; Col 1:24)

1. What is the metaphor being used here?
2. What seems to be the main point(s) of the passage?
3. How does this apply to our lives as members of the Church?
4. As the body, we the Church are Christ's representatives on earth.

Christ has chosen to make himself known through us.

- a. What bearing does this have on the significance of our lives and how we live them?
- b. How does this connect with our church mission statement?²
- c. Is this more about the physical or the spiritual? Is it more about the local or the global?

¹ The five metaphors/images were: Body, Building, Bride, Branches, and Bevy/Band (flock of sheep). The image 'bodybuilding bride' was used.

² Church vision statement: Learn from Jesus, Live for Jesus, Love like Jesus, Lead to Jesus

5. What does it look like to have both unity and diversity in the body?
How do these fit together?
 - a. How does the human body provide an image of this?
 - b. What does it look like across different churches, and across the same church?

The Temple of God (1 Cor. 3:9-17; Ephesians 2:21-22)

1. What is the metaphor being used here?
2. What seems to be the main point(s) of the passage?
3. How does this apply to our lives as members of the Church?
4. Think about the progression of how God has made his dwelling with humanity through the bible. Try to write/draw a progression.
 - a. If the church is now God's temple, how should this affect how we live as the church, both inwardly and outwardly? What might it look like for us to put this into practice?

The Bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:23-32; Rev. 19:7-9)

1. What is the metaphor being used here?
2. What seems to be the main point(s) of the passage?
3. How does this apply to our lives as members of the Church?
4. Holiness and sanctification is a key factor in the Church being the bride of Christ.
 - a. How does this come through in the texts?
 - b. What part does the action of the Church play in this, individually, and corporately? What part does Christ play?
 - c. How can we apply this??

The Vine and the Branches (John 15:1-11)

1. What is the metaphor being used here?
2. What seems to be the main point(s) of the passage?
3. How does this apply to our lives as members of the Church?
4. What does this passage have to say about the fruitfulness of Christians?
 - a. Who does it come from?
 - b. What is our role?

5. What is the connection between the root and the fruit?

The Shepherd and the Sheep (John 10:1-16)

1. What is the metaphor being used here?
2. What seems to be the main point(s) of the passage?
3. How does this apply to our lives as members of the Church?
4. Who is Christ? What distinguishes him from other kinds of shepherds?
5. What comforts and other feelings arise from knowing Christ, the good shepherd, is caring for the flock of his Church?

Rejoin

Rejoin together as a group and try to briefly share the discussions each micro-group had.

1. What did each group discuss?
2. What common themes arose? What do they teach us?
3. How has your understanding and appreciation of the Church changed?
4. Is there anything arising from these metaphors that we can put into practice in our church community?

Open floor:

Any other questions or topics which people wished to and didn't get to discuss?

Close in Prayer