

The Big Ideas – Week 10

Why does the Church exist?

Sum it up like this...

The church exists for the glory of God, the nurture, maturity, and joy of his people, and his mission to his world.

Why does the church exist?

Eph 3:21to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

What is the glory of God?

...the infinite beauty and greatness of his manifold perfections. (John Piper)

How do we particularize this?

As Redemption Hill Church, we understand that we exist to bring glory to God through cultivating gospel centered, grace driven, mission minded people, who plant churches, and transform communities.

How do gospel centered, grace driven, mission minded people live? How does God put himself on display through us?

Loving one another.

God is love. 1 John 4:8 (not love is God)

Inextricably connected to the doctrine of the Trinity is love. In the very nature of God there is a continuous outpouring of love, communication, and oneness. In perfect love, the three persons are characterized by reciprocal self-dedication to the good of the whole Trinity. Because God is a relational community of love, God is the source and model of all that is love... God's love compelled him to make us in his image and likeness to be in loving relationship with him and one another. God did not make us because he was lonely, or because he wanted someone to talk to, and certainly not because he was relationally needy. He has experienced relationship perfectly within the Trinity. (Mark Driscoll, *Vintage Church*)

While God uses relationships to help us in our weakness, this is not their only desired end.

John 13:13-14

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Preaching (doctrine/gospel), Leadership (qualified Elders/discipline), Sacraments (Baptism/Communion) mark a true church. But all this is meant to produce love in us for one another.

1 John 4:7-12

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son

into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

God means to show himself to the world, to glorify himself in and through our relationships.

John 15:12 - Love one another
Romans 5:13 - Don't pass judgment on one another
Romans 12:5 - Be members of one another
Romans 12:10 - Honor one another
Romans 12:16 - Live in harmony with one another
Romans 14:19 - Build up one another
Romans 15:5 - Be like-minded toward one another
Romans 15:7 - Accept one another
1 Corinthians 12:25 - Care for one another
Galatians 5:13 - Serve one another in love
Galatians 5:26 - Don't provoke or envy one another
Galatians 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens
Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind to one another
Colossians 3:13 - Bear with each other and forgive one another
1 Thessalonians 3:12 - Abound in love toward one another
1 Thessalonians 4:18 - Comfort one another
Titus 3:3 - Don't hate one another
Hebrews 3:13 - Encourage one another
Hebrews 10:24 - Stir up one another to love and good deeds
James 4:11 - Don't slander one another
James 5:9 - Don't bear grudges against one another
James 5:16 - Confess your sins to one another
1 Peter 4:9 - Offer hospitality to one another
1 Peter 5:14 - Greet one another
1 John 1:7 - Fellowship with one another
1 John 3:11 - Love one another
Ephesians 5:21 - submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

How will God make much of himself among us?

1. Will we be compelled to have "anothers."

Barriers

- **Pride – I don't need anyone.**
- **Burned**
- **Already have friends**
- **Capacity**
- **Family**
- **Personality**
- **Self-righteousness – the best way to avoid sin is to avoid others**

He who is alone with his sin is utterly alone. Many Christians, even with their corporate worship, common prayer, and all their "fellowship", may still be left to their loneliness. The final breakthrough to fellowship does not occur because they have fellowship with one

another as devout people, they do not have fellowship as the undevout, the sinners. The pious fellowship permits no one to be a sinner. So everybody must conceal his sin from himself and the entire fellowship. We dare not be sinners. Many Christians are unthinkably horrified when a real sinner is suddenly discovered among the righteous. So we remain alone with our sin, living in lies and hypocrisy. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*)

- **Different color, culture, age, neighborhood, and tax bracket.**
- **Indifference**

I John 4:20-21

²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1 Peter 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere **love** of the brethren, **ferently love** one another from the heart,

2. We will be compelled to love one another.

Colossians 3:5-14

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. ¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Barriers:

Anger – Do you replay in your mind with great detail a negative past event and then feel dislike for the person involved?

Wrath - Do you intentionally avoid certain persons because you find yourself becoming continually angry or annoyed in their presence?

Slander/Obscene talk - Do you find yourself continually referring to someone in a pejorative fashion because of some past hurt?

Titus 3:1

¹Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ³For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration

and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Barriers:

Malice/Envy – Are you able to be truly happy for someone when they succeed? Are others a threat to you and so you secretly mean them harm?

Hated by others - Do people sense this about you?

Hating one another - This is what we are like left to ourselves.

- 3. God is made much of when we are humbled by our sin, confess our sins, repent of our sins, and put our trust in him to forgive our sin, receive his righteousness in place of our sin, and live with joy in Him. Without relationships, we would not know our sin and therefore not be able to any of this!**

Consider Romans 5:8...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Where does this love come from?

This is impossible.

"To suppose that whatever God requireth of us that we have power of ourselves to do, is to make the cross and grace of Jesus Christ of none effect." **John Owen**

1 John 4:10-11 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Col 3:12-14

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

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1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

Questions to ask yourself...

Am I willing to make room for "one anothers" in my heart and life?

Am I willing to be hurt or disappointed again for the sake of gospel and the glory of God?

What is stopping me from fervently loving others from the heart? What barriers are in the way?