

A Credible Witness Series
Part Two
09/10/22
Newport News

Opening

- Dave Komornik & Jen Muro Bdays...also Alise B 8 year work anniversary
- 3 weeks in this series...
- if you call this church home...MUST watch last week!
- then 6 weeks of Holy Roar...

Introduction

-I believe churches in America are in decline even while the diversity of congregations are on the rise because people who are coming to churches in search of a Gospel message that promises reconciliation are finding churches preaching a cross that reconciles us to God but is simultaneously failing miserably at being reconciled to one another...simply put, we lack a credible witness!

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-(show slide with vision, mission, message, and values)

A Credible Witness

- 1 John 1:1-5a (give commentary as to what John is doing here)
- Isaiah 40:9
- Ephesians 3:1-6 (reference... “administration of grace” “mystery of Christ”)

-I believe His Church is supposed to be a community of faith where the world sees people reconciling relationships whose lives seem irreconcilable...a credible witness! (sameness not a perquisite for reconciliation)

-I believe His Church is supposed to be a community of faith where the world finds themselves already present when they visit...a credible witness! (first century church growth!)

The Book

-DeyMaz's 7 Commitments of a Multi-Ethnic Church

- 1. Embrace Dependence**
- 2. Take Initial Steps**
- 3. Empower Diverse Leadership**
- 4. Develop Cross-Cultural Relationships**
- 5. Pursue Cross-Cultural Competence**
- 6. Promote a Spirit of Inclusion**
- 7. Mobilize for Impact**

-Embrace Dependency

- Read excerpt from pages 46, 47
- Acts 16:6-10 (reference)

-Mobilize for Impact

- Read excerpt from pages 119, 120
- Exodus 20:25 (reference)
- Matthew 16:16-18 (church is an altar!) (reference)
- Aqueducts tutoring
- Aqueducts 10/29

-Take Initial Steps

- Read excerpt from pages 58,59
- Matthew 20:28 (quote)
- Anecdotal evidence: diverse vs. homogenous volunteerism
- Comfortable = "serve me..."
- Once a month...especially our online church folks!
- Spiritual nourishment from serving others as much as a sermon...
- **(show lines slide again)**

Galatians 5:16-17

- War against your sinful desire to be comfortable in church!
- Comfortable vs. Meaningful and Purposeful
- Comfortable is a humanity longing...

- Meaningful/Purposeful is a Christianity longing...

Band

-John 1:50, 5:20, 14:12-14 (read one of them)

-What if Jesus wasn't talking about physical miracles? Is it possible that Jesus was performing miracles on the tangible to inspire faith for miracles on the intangible? (acknowledge miracles were proof of His divinity AND give my Pentecostal clarifier...)

-What if it's my blindness to the Imago Dei in others...

-What if it's my deafness to the pain and suffering and lament of others...

-What if it's my atrophied will that won't move toward my brother and sister in Christ who is in need...

-What if it's my loving, calming presence that's supposed to calm the storms of life that are causing others to despair...

-What if...what if it's the miracle of reconciling relationships that feel irreconcilable!!!!!!!!!!

Close