

Easter Rewind Series
Towards Togetherness Part One
5/04/24
Newport News

Opening

-explain series

Introduction

-(show time line slide)

-So in light of all these messages, the season of Easter...where do we go from here?

-(participation moment: **something likely expired in your frig?**)

-(set up video)

Towards Togetherness

-Wasn't that a great line? The call of Christ hasn't expired! It's ancient but it's not old!

-Where do we go from here? Towards Togetherness.

-"Redwoods do for each other what they can't do alone."

-Ephesians 3:14-19

- "...all of this..." refers to diverse communities worshipping together
- meaning, being rooted and established in love isn't just referring to us with God but us with each other!
- Experience vs. Understanding (re-read vs. 19)

-So let's talk about how we move towards togetherness (rooted and established in love)...

1. When we love one another relentlessly
2. When we love one another sacrificially
3. When we love one another forgivingly

-1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Relentlessly

-John 13:34-35 (this was the command...it SHOULD be hard not to...)

-Some dates to consider

- Jesus died around AD 33
- Gospel John written between 90 and 100 AD
- 1,2,3 John written closer to 100 AD

-1 John 4:9-11 (wow, what a credible witness!)

-This is how Jesus loved...

1. when they don't deserve it (wage, justice, rights)
2. when they can't return it (explain reciprocal relationships)
3. when they don't want it (parenting)

-Safety net: harming, using, mistreating = boundaries

-We are moving towards togetherness, rooted and established in love, when we love one another relentlessly.

Sacrificially

-Philippians 2:1-8 (NKJV)

>(work through the text, explaining, giving commentary)

-Found this quote this week:

>Jesus, being the very nature of God, made himself nothing. Born in a manger, a helpless baby, reliant on newly minted parents.

>Ever thought of that, Jesus negotiating in Heaven, could we find someone with a little more experience?

>(recount bringing Derick home from the hospital)

>don't let your feelings of inadequacy stop you from loving others...

>How much has Jesus' example of what it cost Him to love us instructs you when you are deciding if you will love someone else?

-Here are some verses to consider

1. 1 John 3:16
2. 1 John 3:17-18

>Let me give you a practical step to take: volunteer here once a month on a Saturday...

-We are moving towards togetherness, rooted and established in love, when we love one another sacrificially.

Forgivingly

-Ephesians 4:32

BAND

-(use Church History in Plain language idea from persecution ending)

-We are moving towards togetherness, rooted and established in love, when we love one another forgivingly.

Close

-We are moving towards togetherness...

- 1. When we love one another relentlessly**
- 2. When we love one another sacrificially**
- 3. When we love one another forgivingly**