

WhyDoBe Series
Unity
11/16/19
NN Campus

Opening

-(slides for building fund giving campaign)

-mission statement slide...

-mission diagram slide...

Introduction

-So we have a saying at City Life...

- “You are family from the first hello!”
- We call this our Moment...
- Pastor Justin preached on this October 19th
- Part two tonight...
- ...how does this saying fit into this mission?

Outcomes

-Luke 7:18-23

-Jesus is teaching us that outcomes matter.

-Encounter, Embrace, Engage...these are outcomes for us here at City Life...

-Are people encountering God’s presence?

-Are people finding an appetite and a passion for church community?

-Are people being inspired to believe that God created them with unique abilities, spiritual gifts, and life experiences to build His church?

-Let me give you another outcome...Unity.

-One of the great outcomes, a measure I believe Jesus uses to know if His Church is being built the way He intended is UNITY!

-This saying, "You are family from the first hello!" is our way of saying to every person who walks through those doors, "You have a contribution to make to the UNITY we are building here!"

Unity

-John 17:21 (and look at Jesus' reason why...our mission!!!!)

>When we are fully aligned, we are fully in Him and the world is fully convinced!

>(talk about trying to put in a car seat, trying to fit into the back seat...do we fit into God's heart for His church?)

-Jesus is saying that the only way we can be fully in God as The Church He intends to build is for us to be aligned with one another.

-Unity is NOT

- Uniformity...you must conform
- Homogeneity...you must be like us from the start
- Inauthenticity...go along to get along

-Biblical unity is when different minded, different gifted, different looking, different living people come together for a common eternal purpose.

-"When diversity is celebrated, harmony is established, and unity is achieved."
Chris House

-Unity is when **absolute commonalities** (10 Commandments/Sermon On The Mount) transcend **relative dissimilarities** (music, structure, titles, some doctrines).

-Unity is not sameness. Unity is togetherness.

-Sameness should not be based on who we are but rather Who we serve!

>John 17:22-23

Diversity

-Acts 2:7-12

-Does the church look like the city?

Racially diverse congregations are the result of a refusal to have a singular ethnic cultural dominance that becomes a mandated absolute for all.

White cultural dominance: male dominated, emotionally reserved, rigid structure, quiet worship, analytics driven, and overly time conscious. (generational cd/socio-economic cd/political cd)

-Acts 15:19-20

...look at the reason why that is given...to not create unnecessary barriers that keep people from believing they will be accepted! They are not talking about negotiating things that are moral absolutes...they are saying don't make things that are supposed to be relative a demand for all!!!!

-We MUST stop letting preferential cultural norms become barriers to the diversity that is necessary for Biblical unity.

-You cannot read texts like 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4 and not come to the conclusion that homogeneity is completely ineffective in fulfilling God's purposes!!!!!!

BAND

Beyond People

So when we say, "You are family from the first hello." We are saying "You will be loved and accepted here." And we aren't just saying that to individuals, we are saying that to churches!

We aren't saying this is a permissive environment. We aren't saying that moral absolutes are negotiable. We are saying that City Life is a church family that is willing to work together with each other, prayerfully with the Holy Spirit, and diligently studying Scripture to understand the difference.

"You are family from the first hello" is not just a statement of hospitality...it is a declaration born out of conviction that diverse people matter to God and they

*are going to matter to us...to build the church Jesus envisioned to love the world
He died to save!*