



MAKING ROOM FOR JESUS

Church worship ended with the song "Make Room" this Sunday. Some of the lyrics are, "Here is where I lay it down; Every burden, every crown; This is my surrender; Here is where I lay it down; Every lie and every doubt; This is my surrender; And I will make room for You; To do whatever You want to."

1. Where do you need to make more room for Jesus to do what He wants to in your life?

RECAP: OUR CONFIDENCE THROUGH THE GRACE OF JESUS

Paul is talking about the grace of Christ for us personally. We have security that should be very comfortable for us, but some of us walk around with insecurity about our salvation. We can live in confidence of what God has done for us and is continuing to do for us in making us into something new.

2. Do you have confidence in your salvation? If not, what's standing in your way?

PEOPLE HAVE MANY VIEWS ABOUT "CHURCH"

Pastor Andrew asked what we think of when we think about church. Some think about traditions. Some think about a specific denomination. Some think about a specific group, place, or even set of behaviors. Some of us have developed our view of the church from other people's experiences or opinions. But, it's important to know what the Bible itself says about what the church is and its purpose.

3. Describe the picture that pops into your head when you hear the word "church"?

THE INCLUSIVENESS OF THE GOSPEL & THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

[Ephesians 3:1-13] Paul starts Ch. 3 with "for this reason" because he was writing to both ethnic Jews as well as Gentiles and Paul is introducing something new with an inclusiveness that would be mind-blowing for both groups. Paul talks to them about the "mystery of Christ". This goes all the way back to the Abrahamic Promise that says the chosen people would be blessed so they could be a blessing to all. Paul explains the mission of the church to make God's wisdom known. The church is the PEOPLE of God, conveying the TRUTH of God, on the MISSION of God. The church is not a brick-and-mortar building. The church is believers who are called to live out the Word of God. Our greatest purpose isn't a holy huddle, but to go out into the game of life and affect the world we live in.

4. How can we "be the church" when we're away from the church as a building?

THE GRACE OF GOD WILL MATCH ANY SITUATION THAT LIFE MAY BRING

We are supposed to convey the multi-faceted wisdom of God and make it known through the church. This unique word Paul uses implies something multi-colored and multi-dimensional. Paul uses this word only three times: In relation to the multi-faceted works of God, the multi-faceted understanding of God, and now the multi-faceted wisdom of God. What this means for our lives is the idea that the grace of God will match any situation that life may bring. In the Bible, we see a host of imperfect people woven into the meta-narrative of the grace of God because it's all about God doing a work through and in us. We should be encouraged about how God includes imperfect people in the stories in the Bible. In Hebrews, we're told that we have a high priest in Jesus that can sympathize with us because he experienced humanity even though He never sinned. Therefore, part of the multi-faceted wisdom of God is that God "gets" us.

5. Have you ever let your imperfections drown out your purpose as part of the church on mission? If so, what imperfections do you need to surrender to God so his grace can meet you where you're at?
6. How does Jesus ability to sympathize with us set him apart from the so-called gods of false religions?

OUR MISSION: HELPING PEOPLE DISCOVER AND FOLLOW JESUS

Pastor Andrew talked about picking out an engagement ring and how the setting is as important as the diamond because the setting is meant to highlight and beautifully display the diamond. Using this analogy, the setting is the church by which we put on display the multi-faceted brilliance of God. Our mission as the church is to help people to discover and follow Jesus. God intends to bring everything back together – everything that sin broke – and He's using the church as a tool for that redemption. Either culture will influence the church, or the church will influence the culture as we follow the mission set before us.

7. How are you "on mission" to help people discovery and follow Jesus?
8. How can you be a better "setting" to display the brilliance of God's redemptive message?